No. 27
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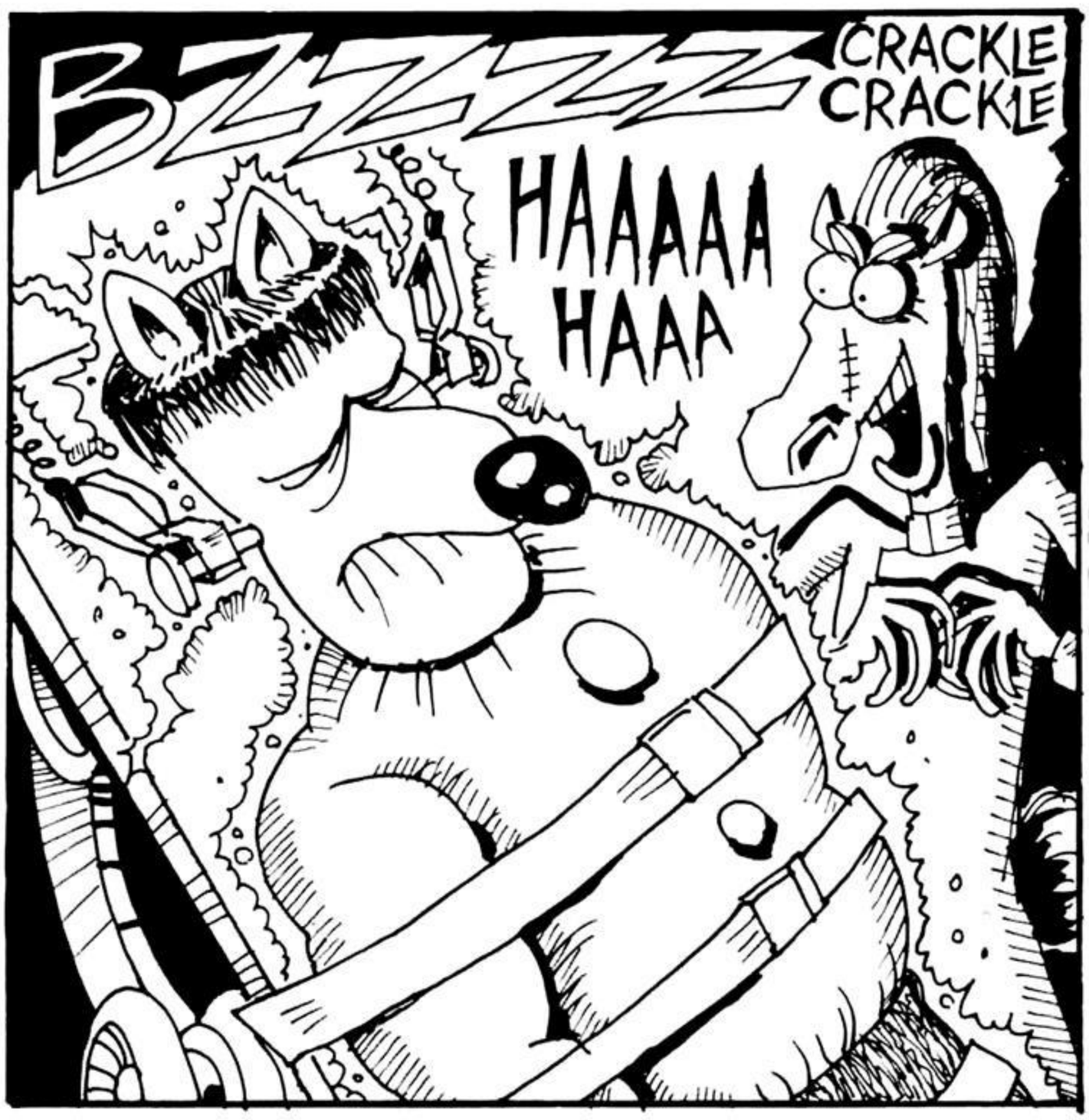
Critters

FANTAGRAPHICS BOOKS

Critters



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NUMBER 27 AUGUST 1988

C O N T E N T S

Nilson Groundthumper by Stan Sakai
"Mother Pearl"
Nilson Groundthumper are put in charge of escorting the world's largest oyster egg.....1

Lionheart by Tom Stazer with Anthony Smith
"Search and Destroy!"
Lionheart comes out of his nightmares to escape from his tormentors...but is his escape planned?.....11

Fission Chicken by J.P. Morgan
"They Saved Walt's Brain"
Dr. Victor Frankenstang's experiments are failing right and left—so he sends his assistant out to shop for brains.....21

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EDITORIAL

Say what you will about getting back on schedule, it sure doesn't leave you a lot of time to write editorials. But this time we need space to announce something anyway, namely:

A CONTEST!

Here's the gist of it. Poor Stan Sakai is confused. Why, you ask? Well, it's not because Mark Evanier sent him another script for Groo the Wanderer *scribbled in catsup on a Wendy's napkin. Nor is it because he's finally so far ahead on* Usagi Yojimbo *that his editor asked him to please take a few weeks off so we could clear away the mountain of upcoming* Usagi *stories from our "outgoing" bin. Nor is Stan baffled because Eclipse sent him 53 pages of Kamui to re-letter with all the dialogue mysteriously translated into Finnish. It's not even that he's dazed by the excruciatingly ingenious way in which Kim Thompson managed to plug all his other projects at the same time in this paragraph.*

No, Stan's confusion is the one that a funny-animal cartoonist always dreads: HE'S NOT SURE WHAT KIND OF ANIMAL HERMY IS!

Now, if you read Usagi Yojimbo, *you know that Stan is generally crystal clear—limpid, even—on matters of zoological classification such as this. Rabbits, monkeys, turtles, pigs, rhinoceros-eroseroseroses (sorry, got carried away)—they all strut proudly through the pages of* Usagi, *instantly identifiable as specific members of the animal kingdom.*

Not so poor Hermy. His monumental lack of self-awareness extends all the way to his very being.

Well, Stan figures that he may be smart, but 7,000 Critters *readers, even if each were invidually dumb as a post (which of course you fine paying customeres aren't), collectively are smarter even than he.*

So the gauntlet is thrown down: Figure out what kind of animal Hermy is and win a prize!

First prize is an original drawing from Stan, suitable for framing. Additional prizes, consisting mostly of subscriptions to Usagi Yojimbo *and/or* Critters, *will be awarded according to the whims and biases of Stan, with input from Ye Editor in case Stan isn't whimsical or biased enough.*

All entries should be sent to "NAME THAT CRITTER," 1800 Bridgegate Street #101, Westlake Village, CA 91361. The deadline is June 1st according to postmark, but if you're a couple of days late you can just set back your company's postage meter like I do in cases like this.

This is an essay question, so don't shirk your duties by just jotting down "dog" or "giraffe" or "jabberwock"—argue your position strenuously, so we can print your letters and make fun of the more bizarre ones.

The letters page will return next issue if you're all good. Make that darn *good. I'm in a demanding mood this month.* —KIM THOMPSON

AVENUE of MERCENARIES
ENTER AT OWN RISK
HMMM...
PLEASE HIRE US!
YOU TWO LOOK EXPENDABLE! I WANT TO HIRE YOU FOR A SUICIDE MISSION IN WHICH YOU'LL NO DOUBT DIE HORRIBLE, PAINFUL DEATHS!
SEE, MASTER NILSON? I TOLD YOU IT PAYS TO ADVERTISE!
PLEASE
1.

AS YOU CAN SEE, I AM A PRIEST OF THE OYSTER CULT.
I WANT YOU TWO TO TRANSPORT THE FABULOUS MOTHER PEARL TO OUR NEW TEMPLE.
PSST HERMY... WE'LL HOLD OUT FOR FIFTY GOLD PIECES!
OINK.

YOU'LL BE PAID THREE HUNDRED PIECES OF GOLD!

HA! WE WANT FIFTY GOLD PIECES OR NOTHING! MMMUPH!
ER... HEH HEH. WHAT MY FRIEND MEANS IS THAT IT'S A DEAL!

GOOD! BUT YOU'LL BE PAID AFTER YOU COMPLETE THE CONTRACT!
AAH, HERE'S OUR TEMPLE.

NOW GENTLEMEN, BEHOLD...

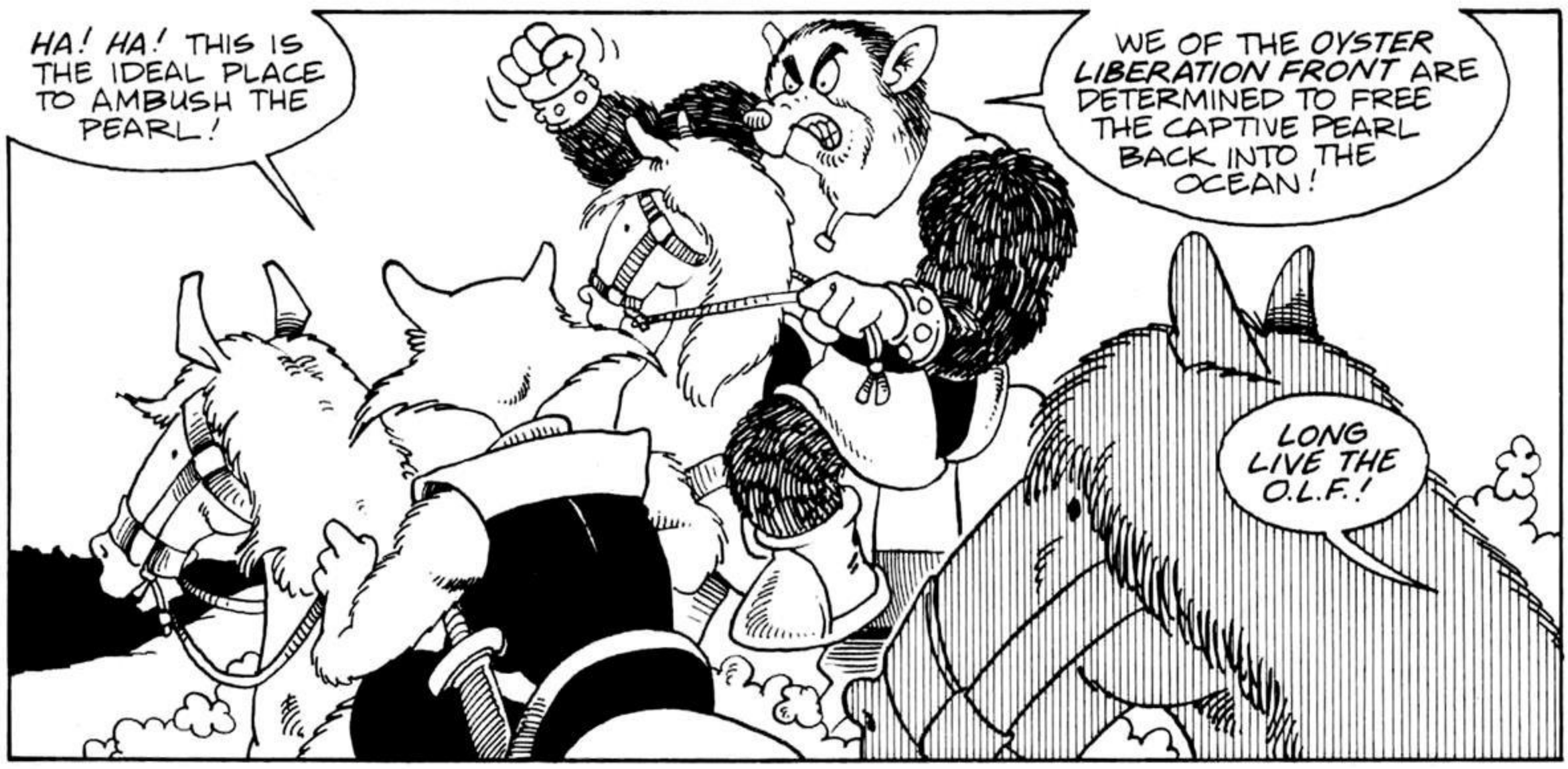
THE ADVENTURES OF
NILSON GROUNDTHUMPER AND HERMY ™

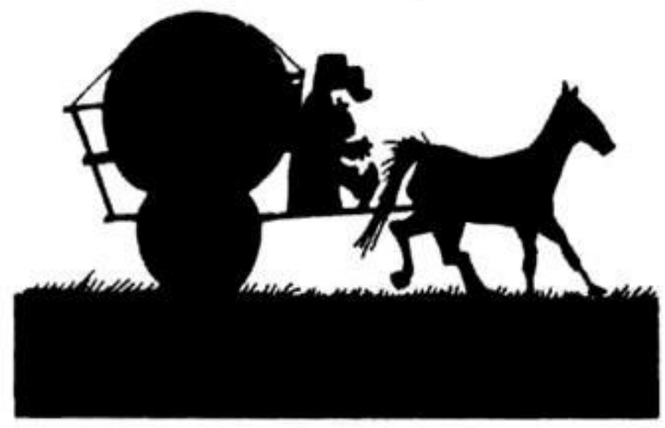
MOTHER PEARL!

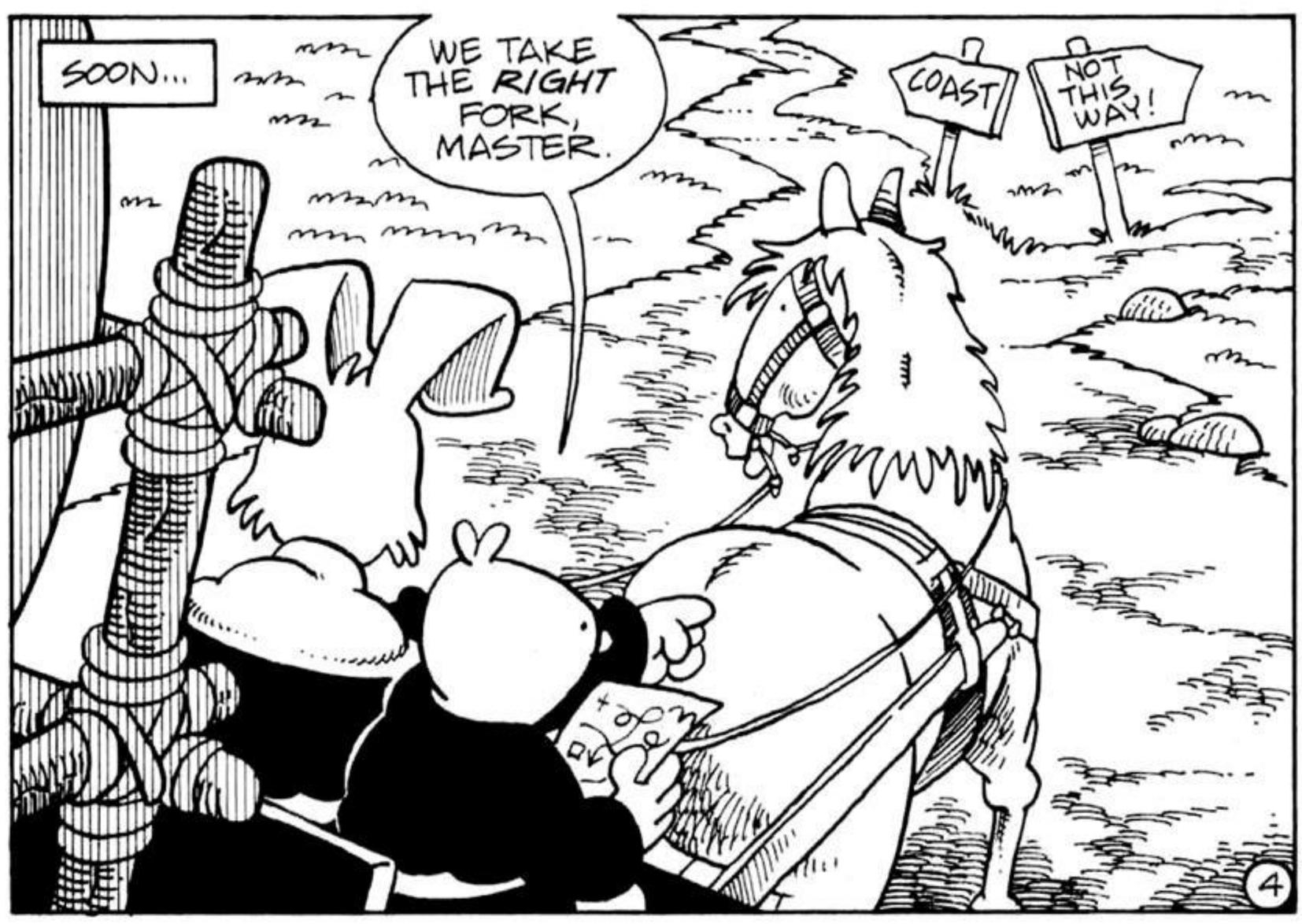
SAKAI

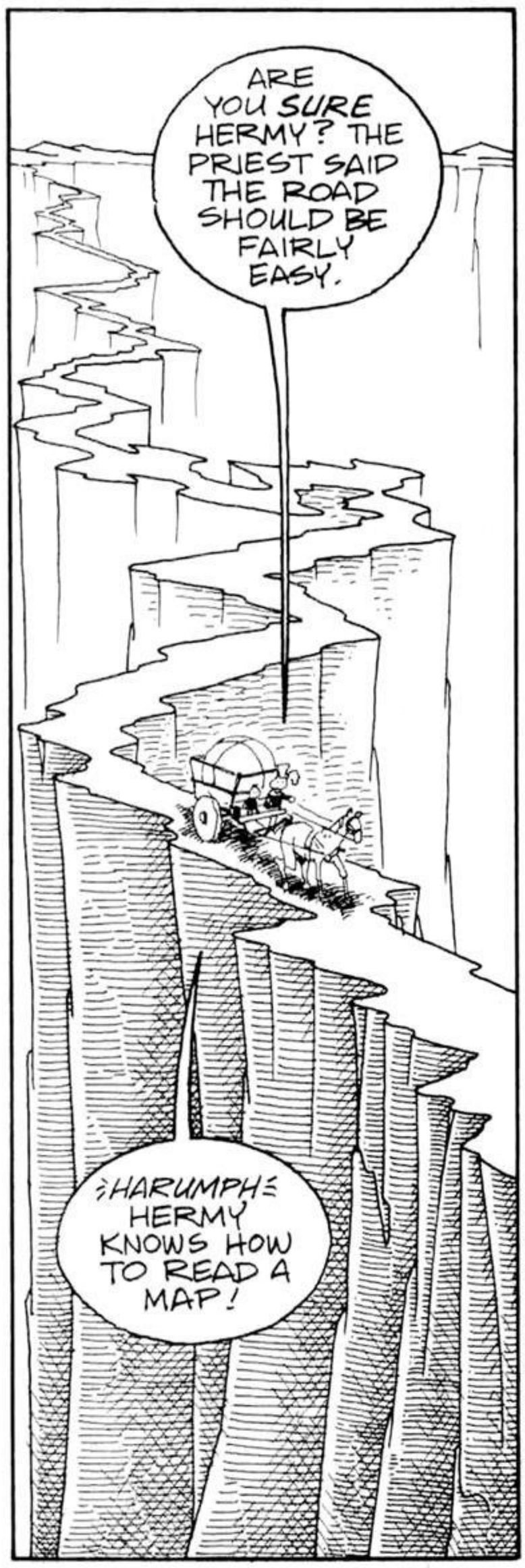
HERE'S A MAP. THE NEW TEMPLE HAS JUST BEEN COMPLETED AT A COST OF COUNTLESS MILLIONS!
IT'S ALONG THE COAST NEAR THE SACRED OYSTER BEDS!

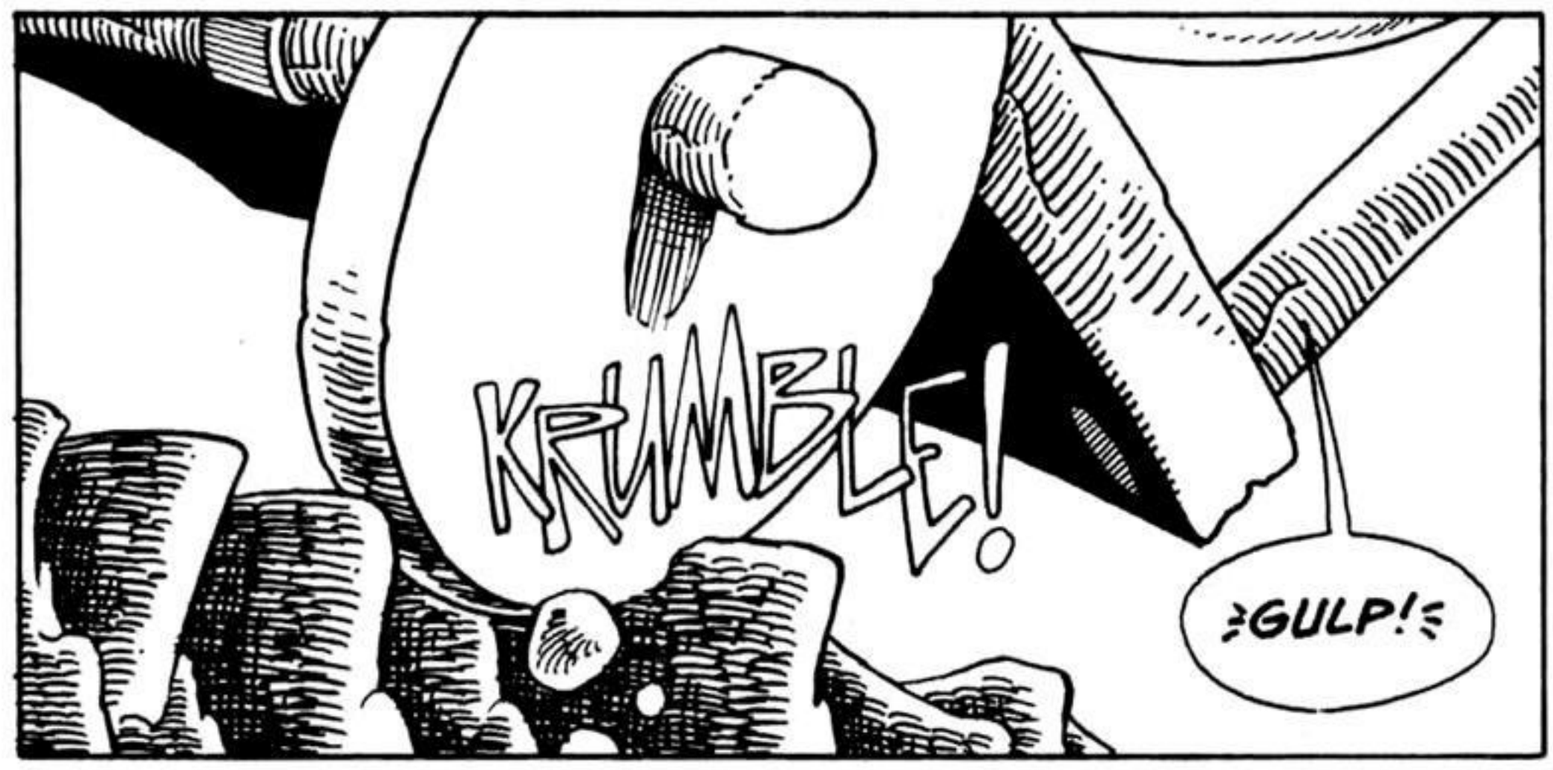
FAIL IN THIS MISSION AND YOU'LL DIE A SLOW, AGONIZING DEATH THROUGH *CALCIUM DEFICIENCY!*

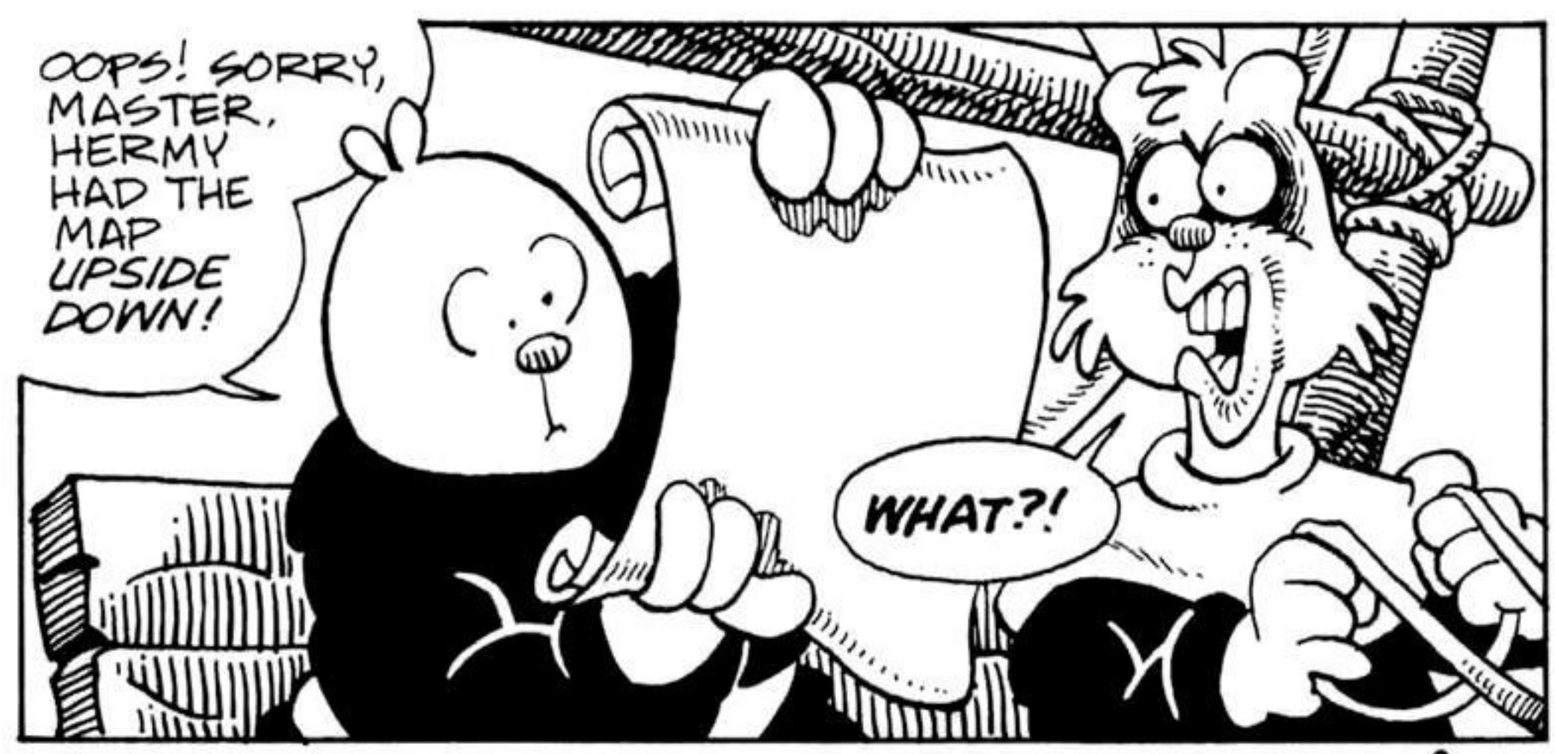

HA! HA! THIS IS THE IDEAL PLACE TO AMBUSH THE PEARL!
WE OF THE *OYSTER LIBERATION FRONT* ARE DETERMINED TO FREE THE CAPTIVE PEARL BACK INTO THE OCEAN!
LONG LIVE THE O.L.F.!


WE'RE *OFF* HERMY! MAKE SURE THE RESTRAINING ROPES STAY SECURE!
YES, MASTER NILSON!


SOON...
WE TAKE THE *RIGHT* FORK, MASTER.
COAST
NOT THIS WAY!

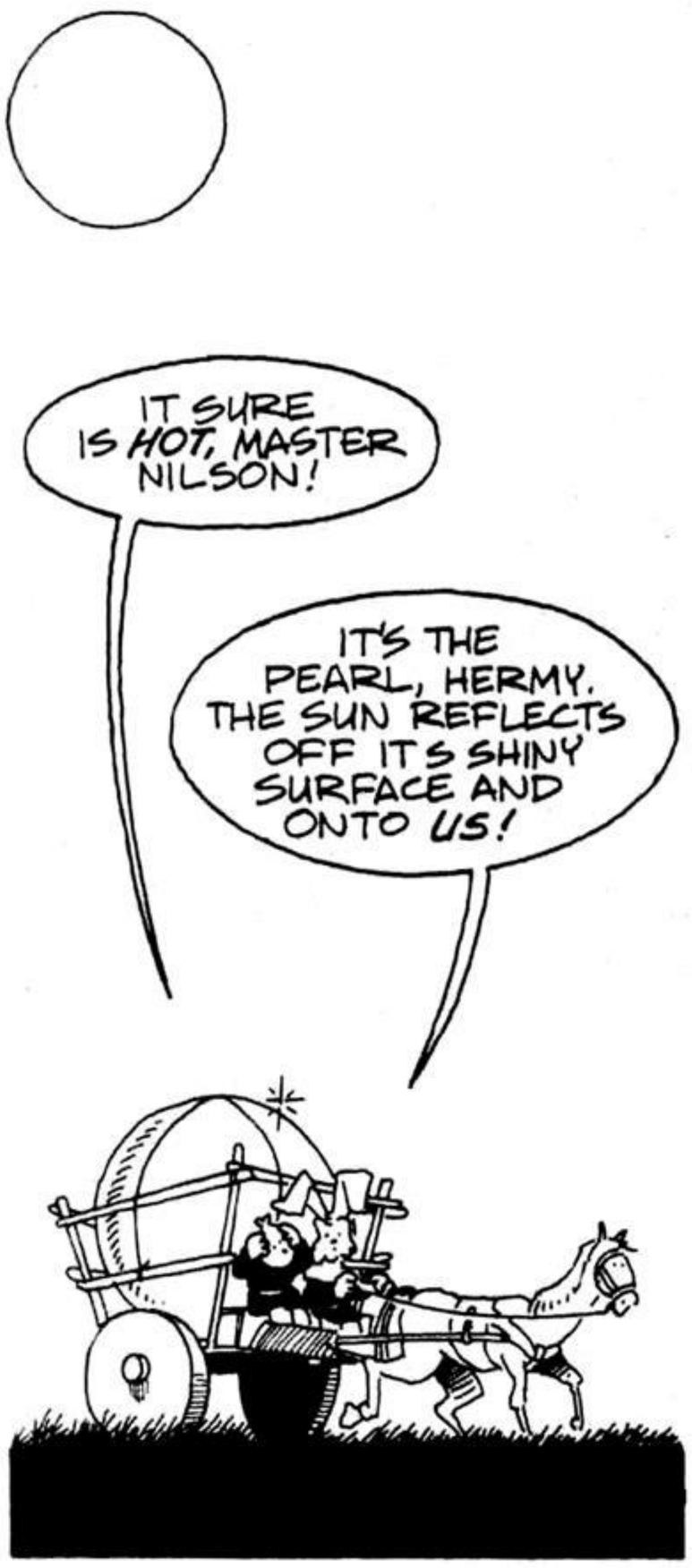

ARE YOU SURE HERMY? THE PRIEST SAID THE ROAD SHOULD BE FAIRLY EASY.
HARUMPH! HERMY KNOWS HOW TO READ A MAP!

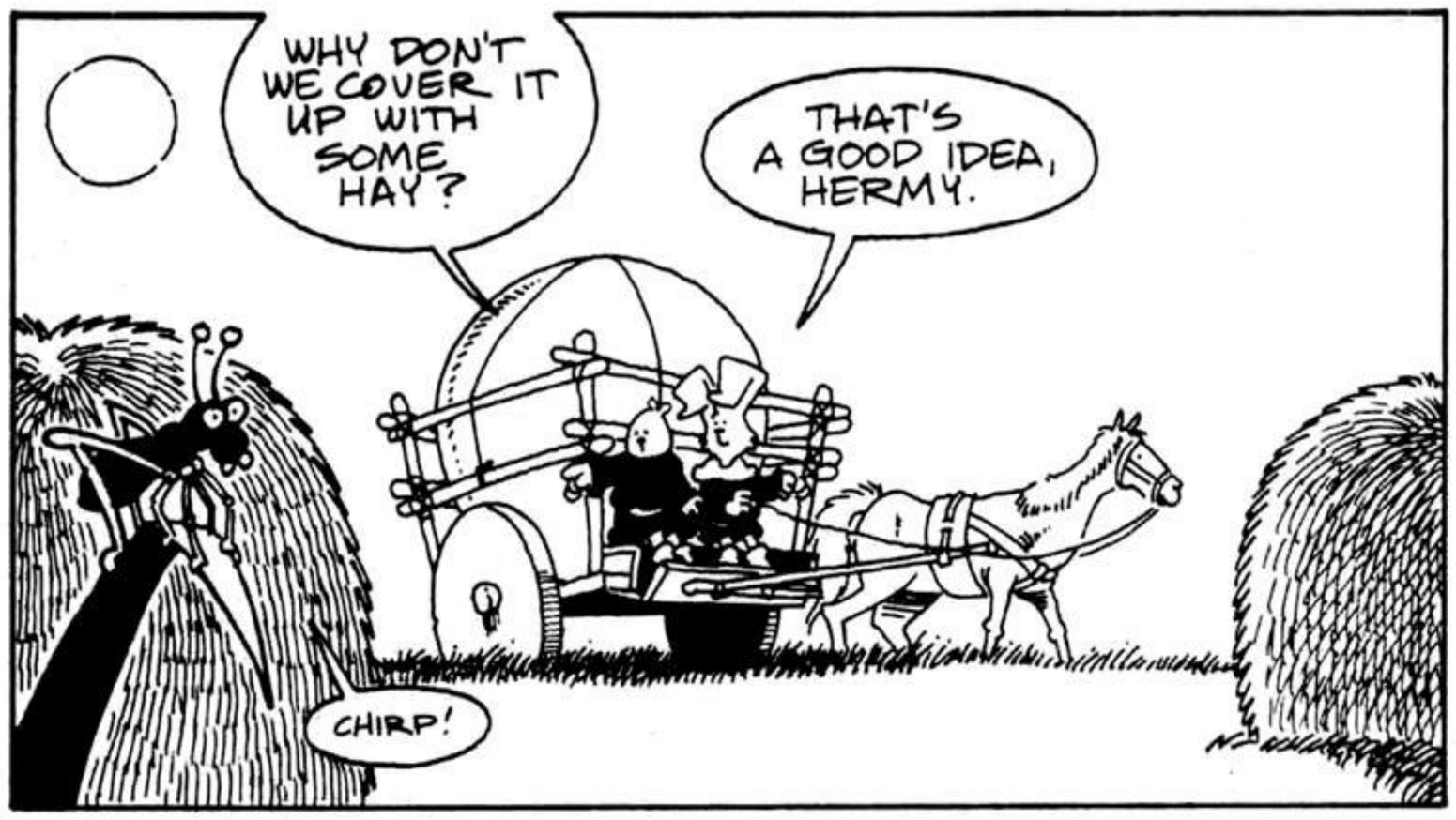

KRUMBLE!
GULP!

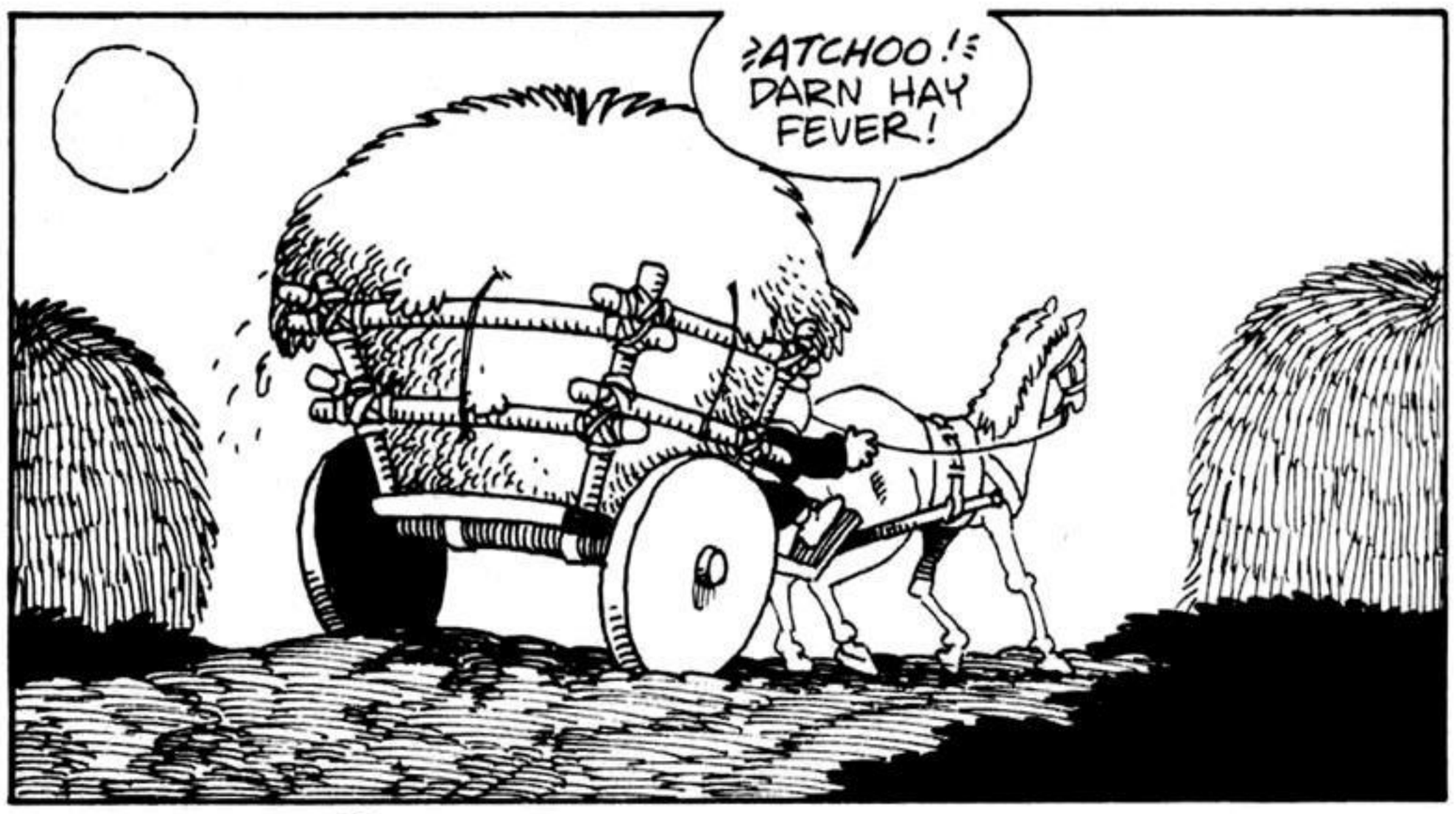

OOPS! SORRY, MASTER, HERMY HAD THE MAP UPSIDE DOWN!
WHAT?!

HERMY!
?

BOSS OLF! OUR SCOUTS REPORT THE PEARL TOOK THE OTHER PATH!
WHAT?! THEY MUST BE SHREWD INDEED!
WE'RE UP AGAINST SOME WILY BRAINS!
QUICK! ON TO THE SECOND AMBUSH SPOT!


IT SURE IS HOT, MASTER NILSON!
IT'S THE PEARL, HERMY. THE SUN REFLECTS OFF ITS SHINY SURFACE AND ONTO US!

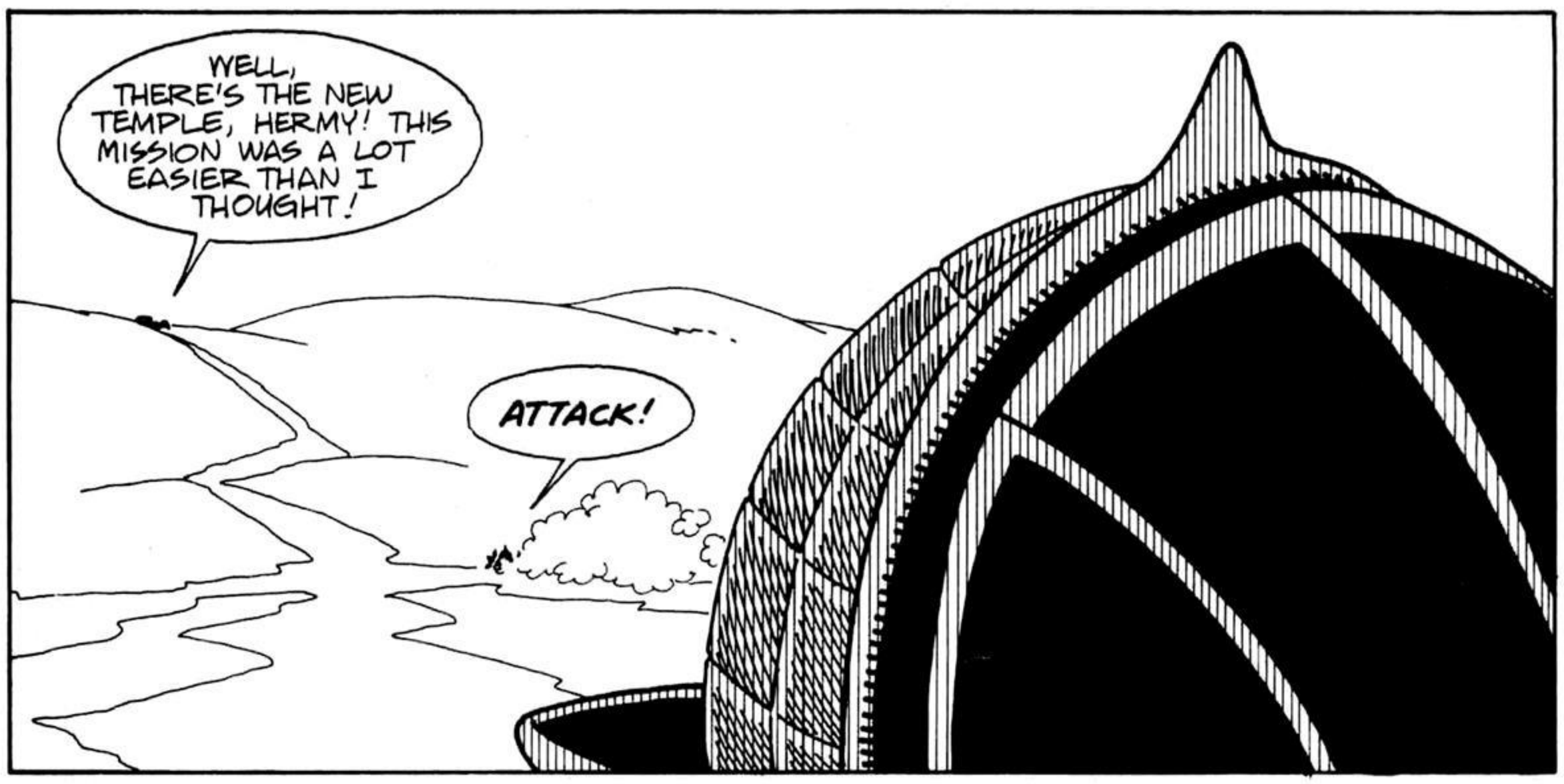

WHY DON'T WE COVER IT UP WITH SOME HAY?
THAT'S A GOOD IDEA, HERMY.
CHIRP!

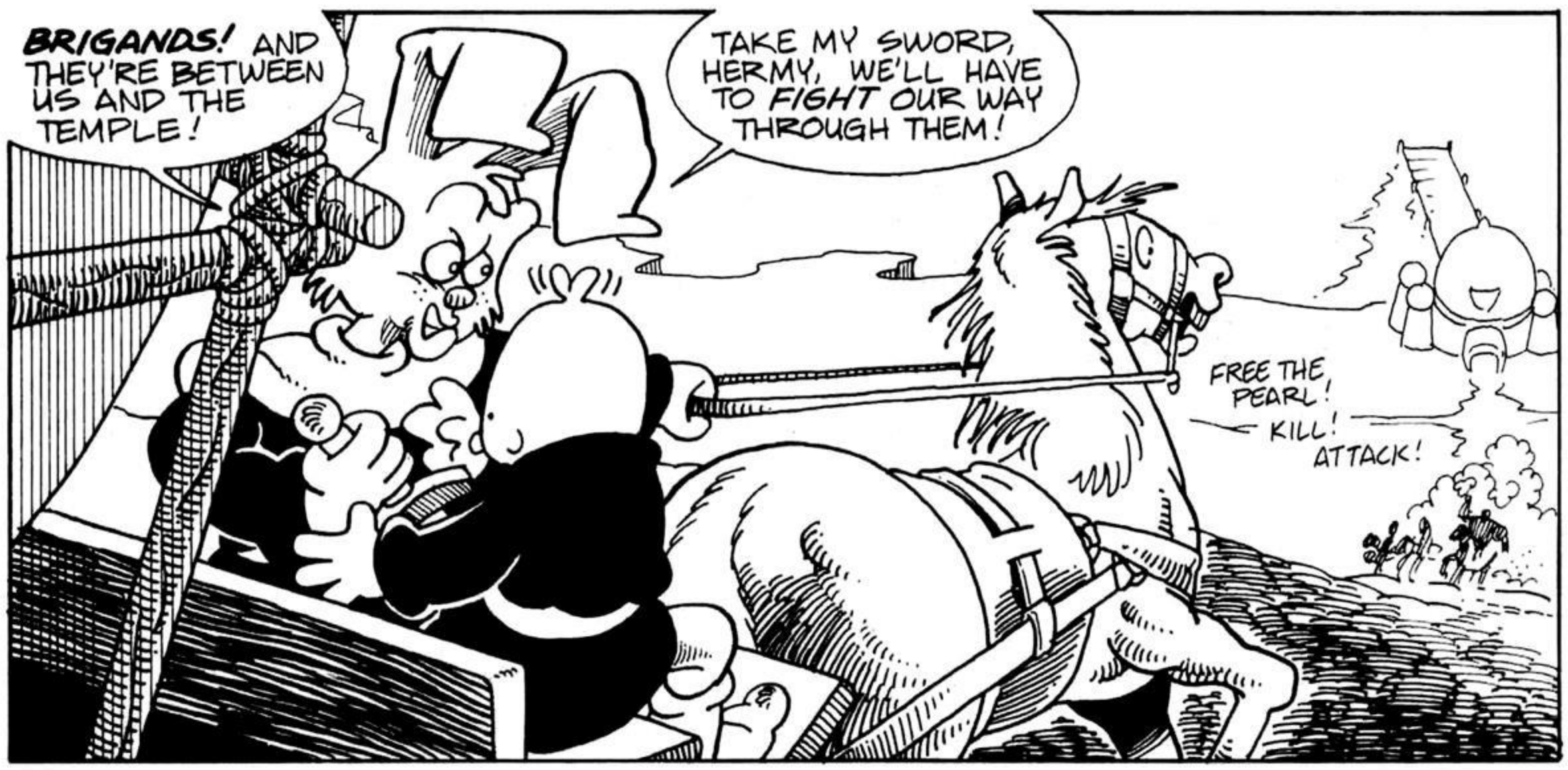

ATCHOO! DARN HAY FEVER!

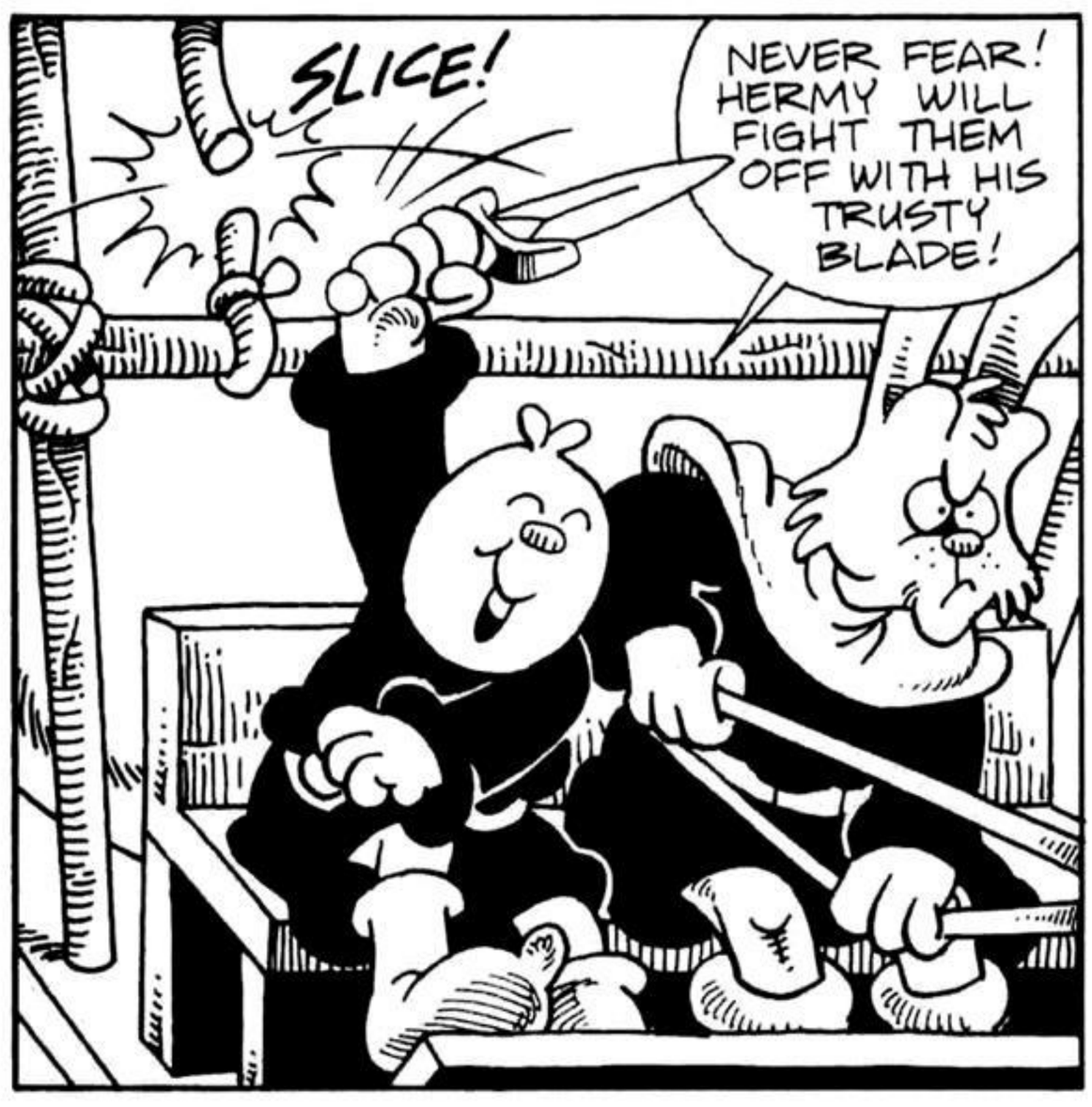
HERE THEY COME! PUSH THE BOULDER OVER TO START THE LANDSLIDE!
ATCHOO
ATCHOO
ATCHOO
NO, YOU IDIOT! IT'S JUST A FARMER WITH A LOAD OF HAY!
WE'LL HAVE TO WAIT A BIT LONGER!

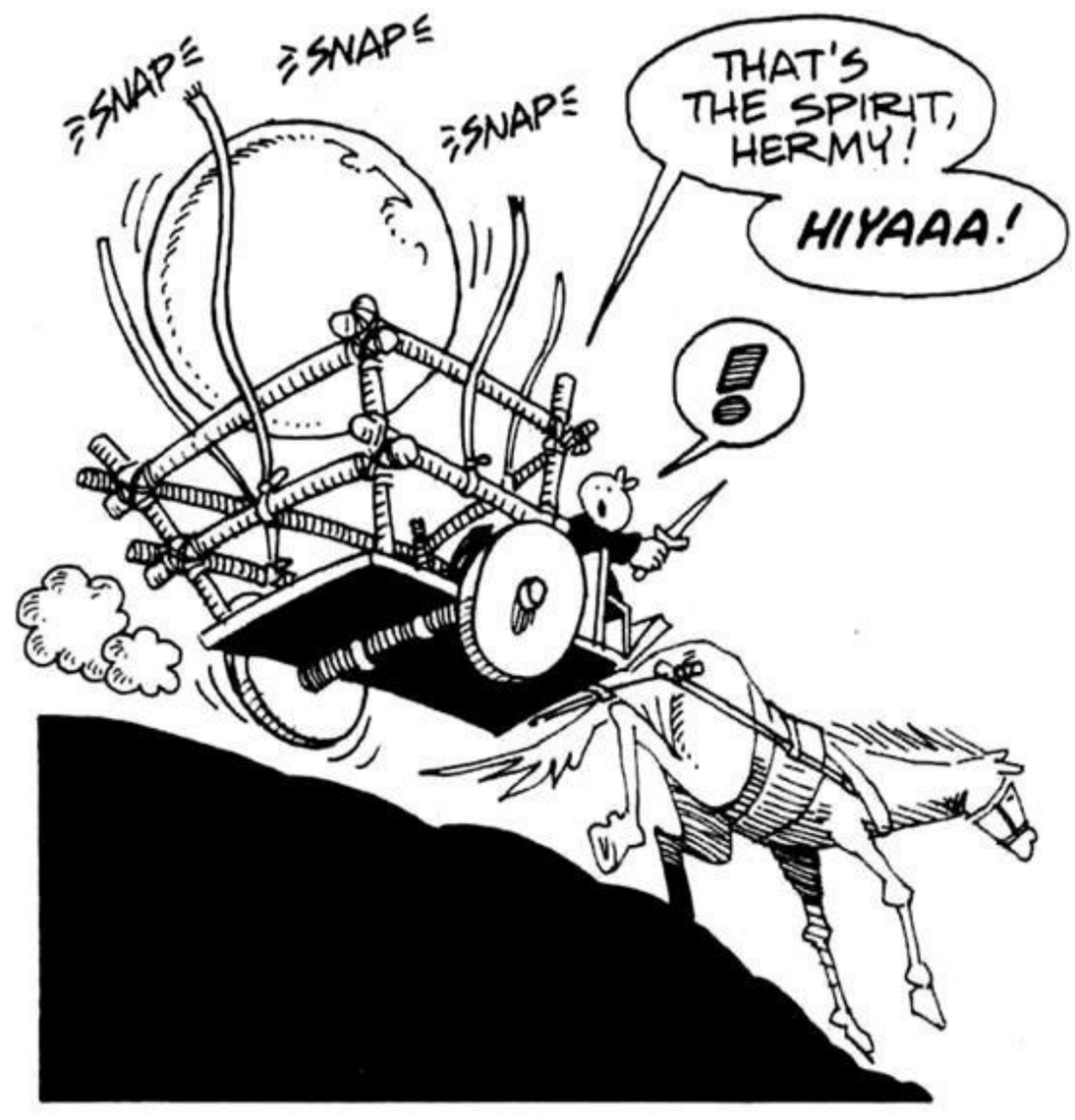
BUT THEN A SUDDEN WIND...
HAY!

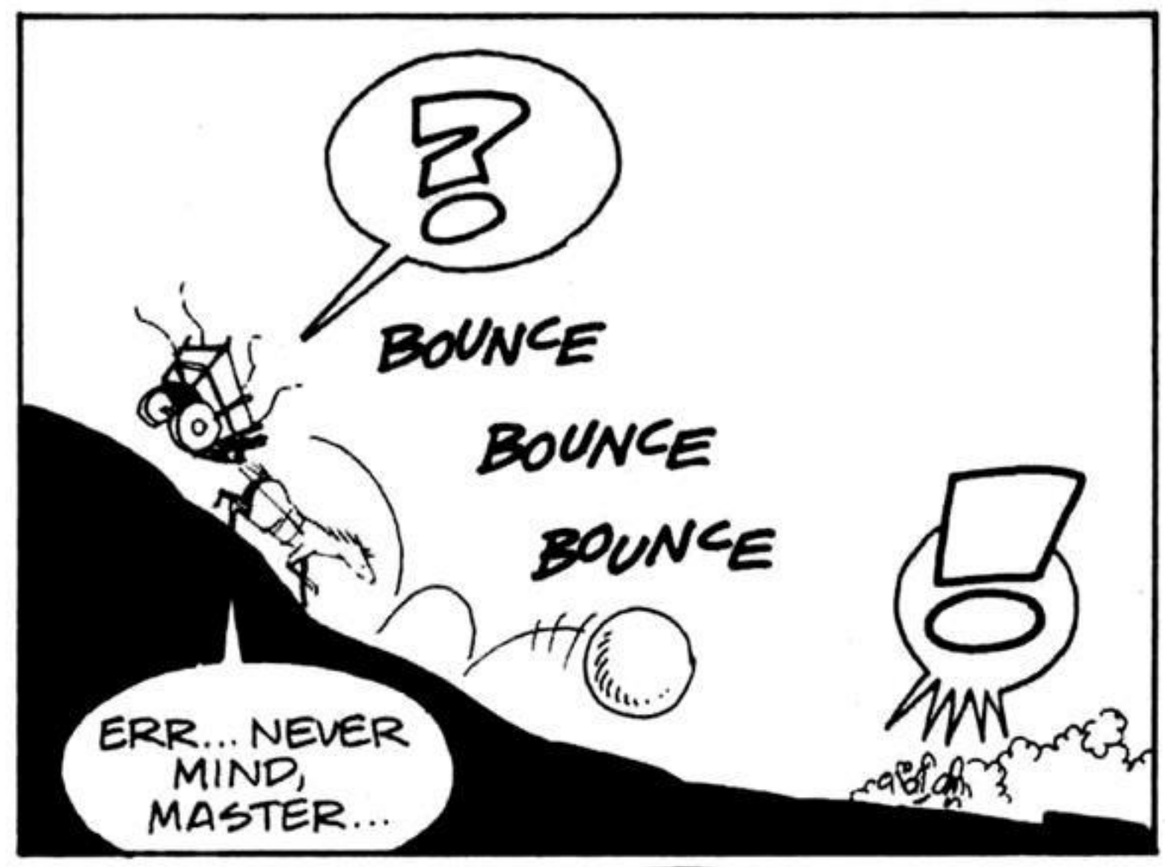
WHY, THOSE DIRTY... THEY TRICKED ME AGAIN! QUICK! ON TO THE THIRD AMBUSH SPOT!
WE'LL GET THEM NEXT TIME FOR SURE!


WELL, THERE'S THE NEW TEMPLE, HERMY! THIS MISSION WAS A LOT EASIER THAN I THOUGHT!
ATTACK!


BRIGANDS! AND THEY'RE BETWEEN US AND THE TEMPLE!
TAKE MY SWORD, HERMY, WE'LL HAVE TO FIGHT OUR WAY THROUGH THEM!
FREE THE PEARL!
KILL!
ATTACK!


SLICE!
NEVER FEAR! HERMY WILL FIGHT THEM OFF WITH HIS TRUSTY BLADE!


SNAP
SNAP
SNAP
THAT'S THE SPIRIT, HERMY!
HIYAAA!
!



BOWL!

!

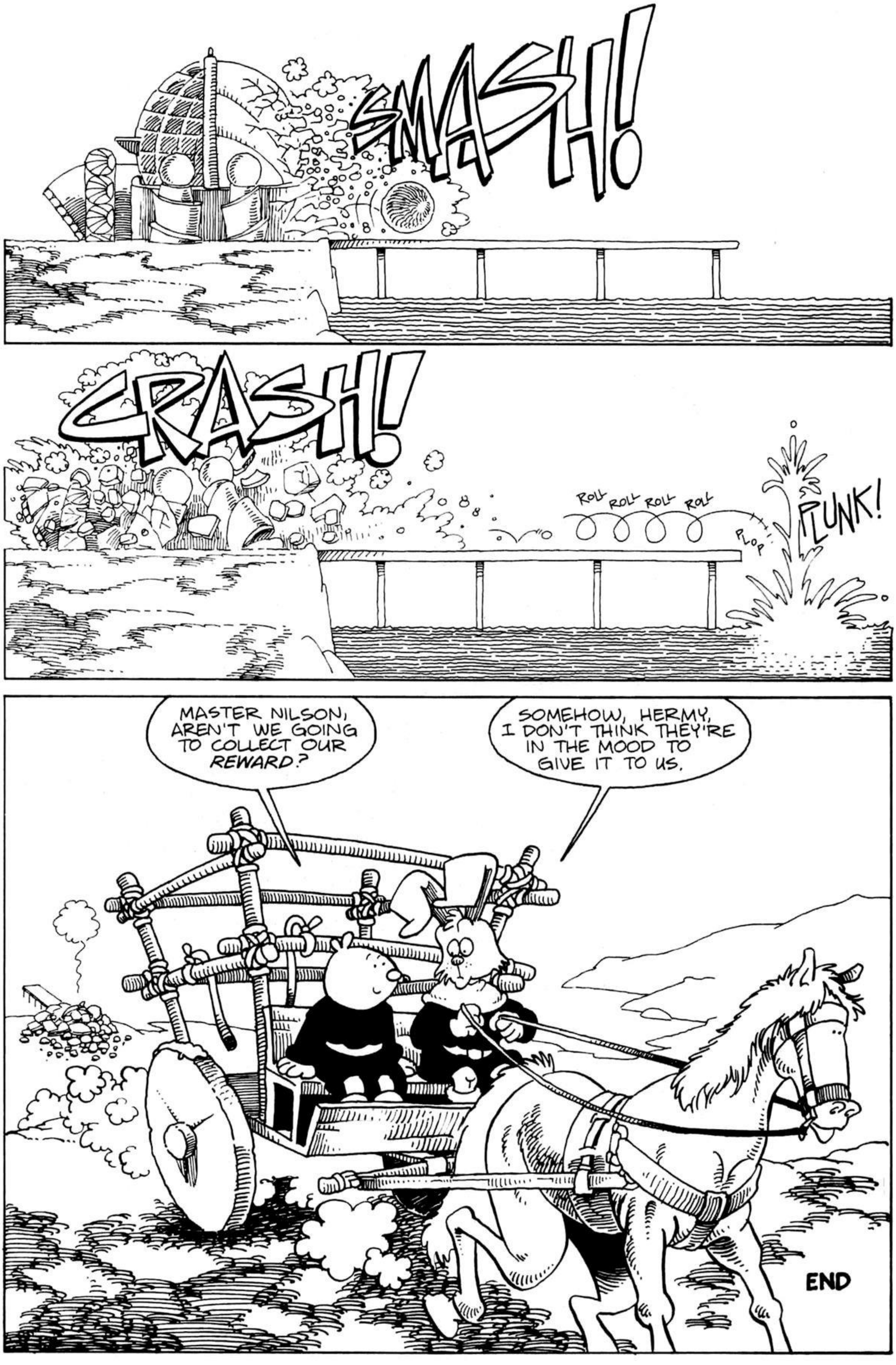
YOW!

GARK!

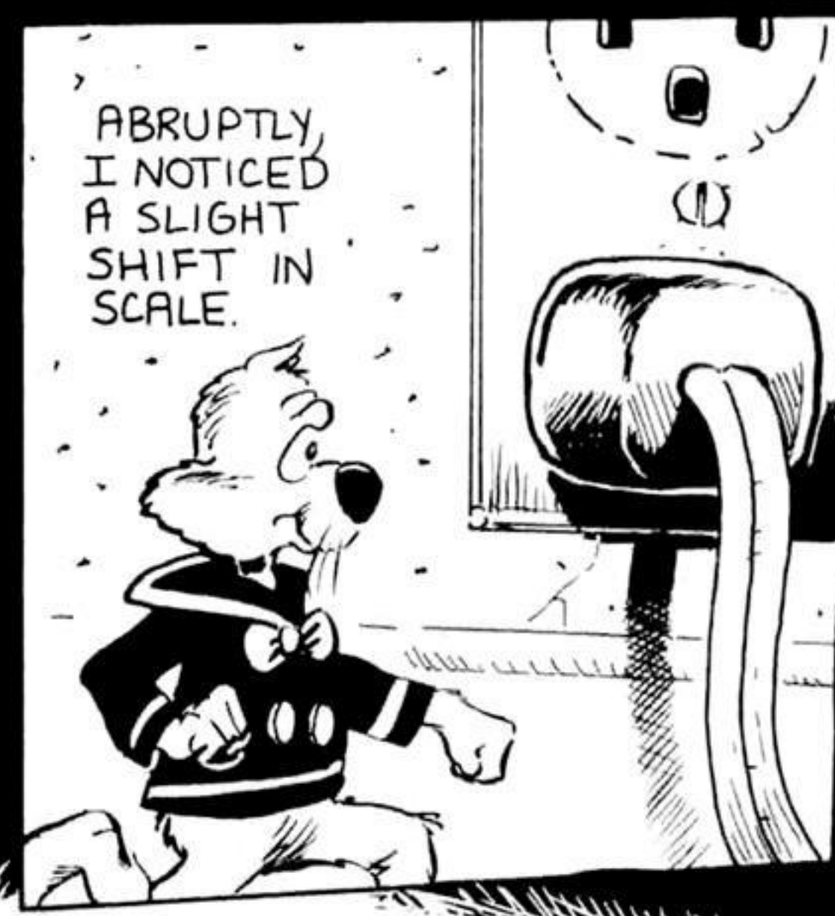
EEP!

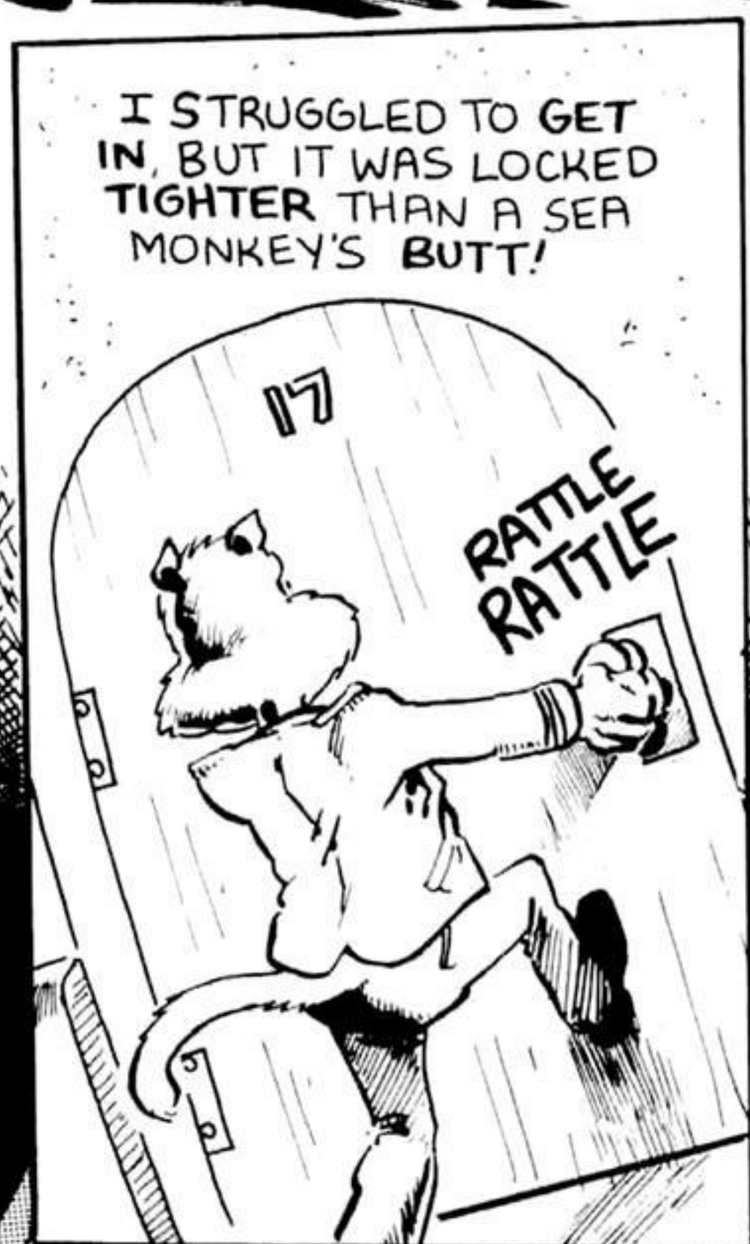
GURK!

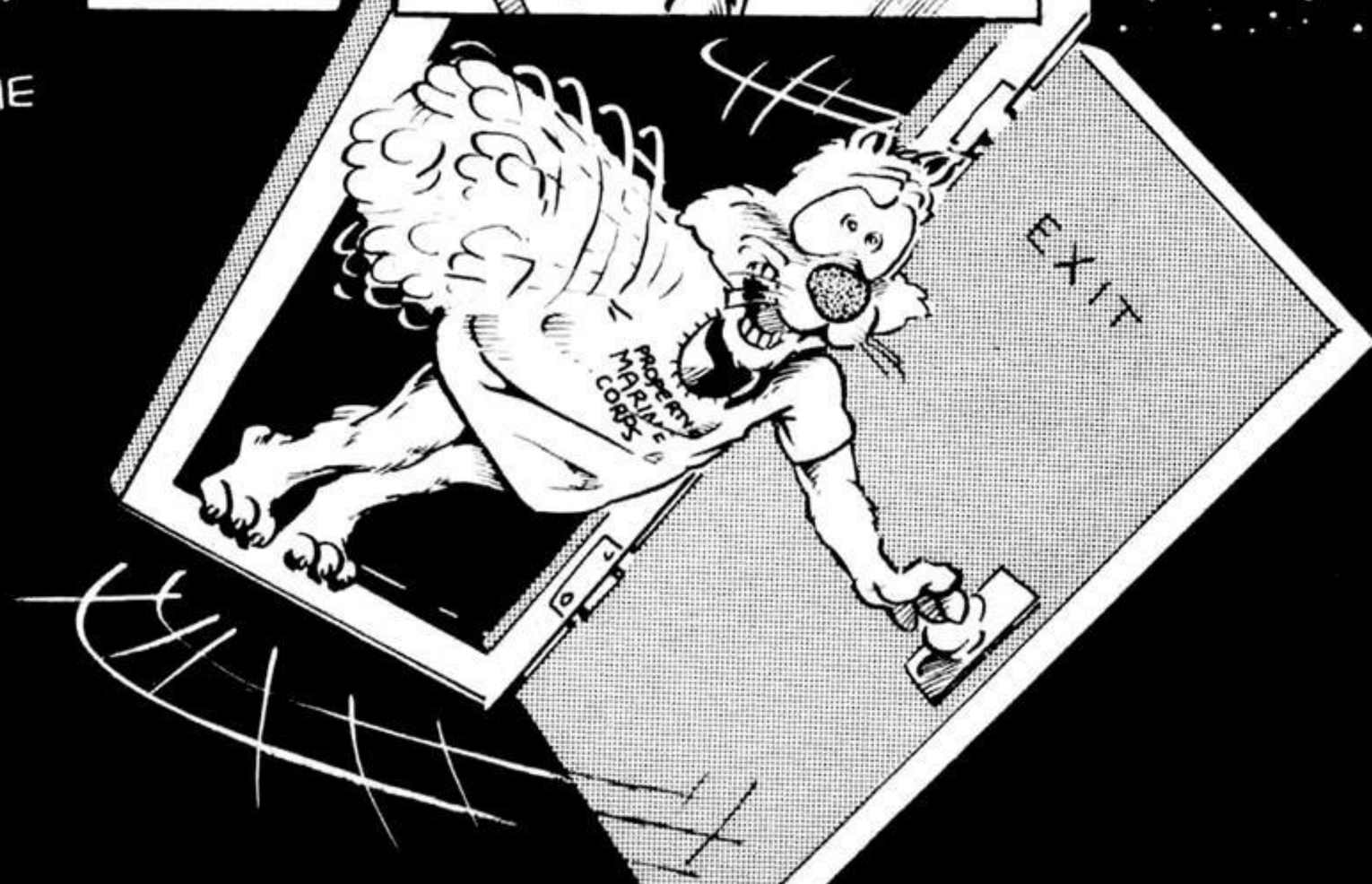
HIGH PRIEST! THE MOTHER PEARL IS APPROACHING THE GATE!
AHH... GOOD!
AT LAST!
I'LL GO OUT TO MEET IT!
AH! THANK YOU FOR DELIVERING OUR MOST SACRED SYMBOL!
FEAR NOT, FRIENDS, YOU WILL BE GREATLY REWARDED!
YOU WILL BE SHOWERED WITH GOLD AND... AND...
UH OH.
SMASH
BAM!
KA-RUNCH!
CRASH!
ROLL ROLL ROLL
9


SMASH!
CRASH!
ROLL ROLL ROLL ROLL
PLOP
PLUNK!
MASTER NILSON, AREN'T WE GOING TO COLLECT OUR REWARD?
SOMEHOW, HERMY, I DON'T THINK THEY'RE IN THE MOOD TO GIVE IT TO US.
END

GOOVOO GAVOO
GOOVOO GAVOO
WE ACCEPT YOU!
ONE OF US!
AAAA
ARF-BARK! YIP!
WHAT'S THE MATTER, PAL? YOU DON'T LOOK SO HOT-- YOU OKAY?
THIS CAT IS IN SHOCK! IS THERE A DOCTOR IN THE HOUSE?
WHY, YES... I'M A DOCTOR.
I GOT THE CURE FOR WHAT AILS YA!
YEEOWPF!







SUDDENLY, THE DOOR **SWUNG WIDE** AS THE **FAT LADY** SINGING AT THE END OF THE OPERA. I **FELL FORWARD** INTO **PITCH BLACK**...

OR **MAYBE** I **PITCHED FORWARD** INTO **BLACK FELT**. I DON'T KNOW; I WASN'T THINKING TOO CLEARLY ... AND I COULDN'T SEEM TO **SHUT UP**.

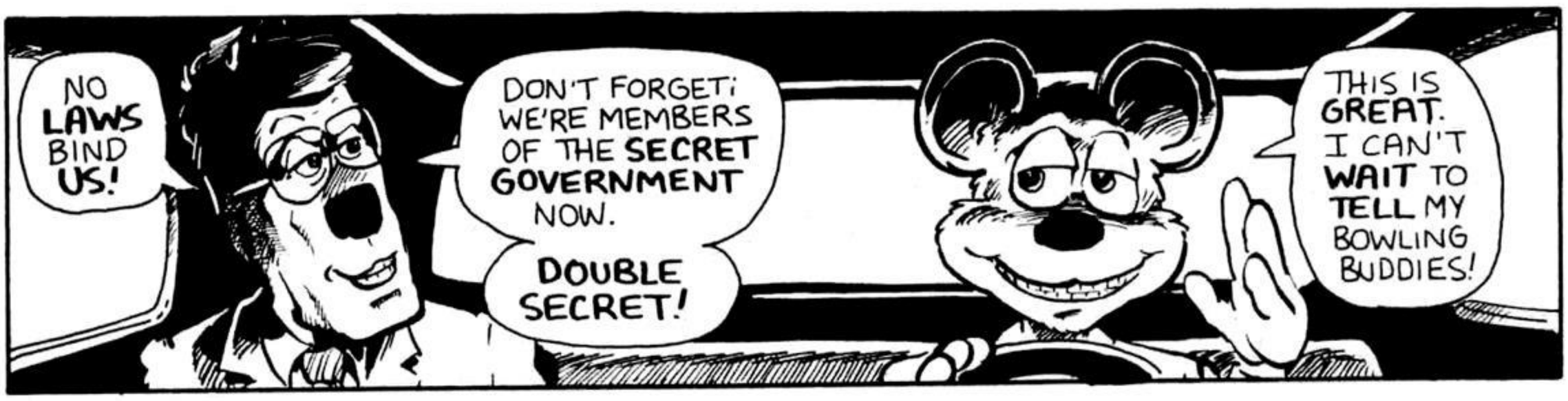
LIONHEART part three

SEARCH & DESTROY!

STORY: ANTHONY F. SMITH/TOM STAZER ART: TOM STAZER

WELL, IF YOU WANT PRECISE LEGAL DEFINITIONS YOU SHOULD TALK TO LEAD BUTT.
HAHA HA
HAHA HAHA HA HA

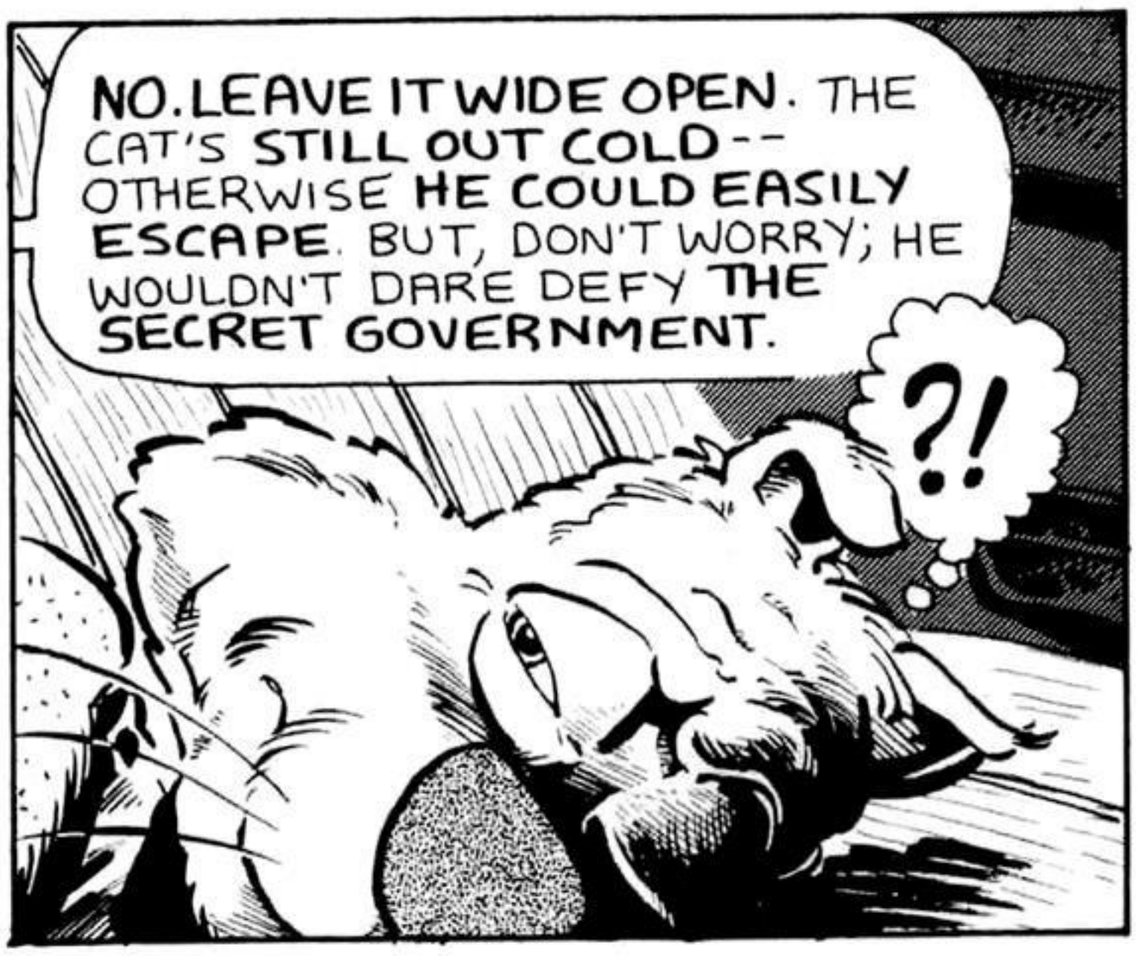
BUT HELL-- WHO CARES? WE'RE CIA; WE CAN DO ANYTHING WE DAMN WELL PLEASE!
HA HA HA HA HA HA

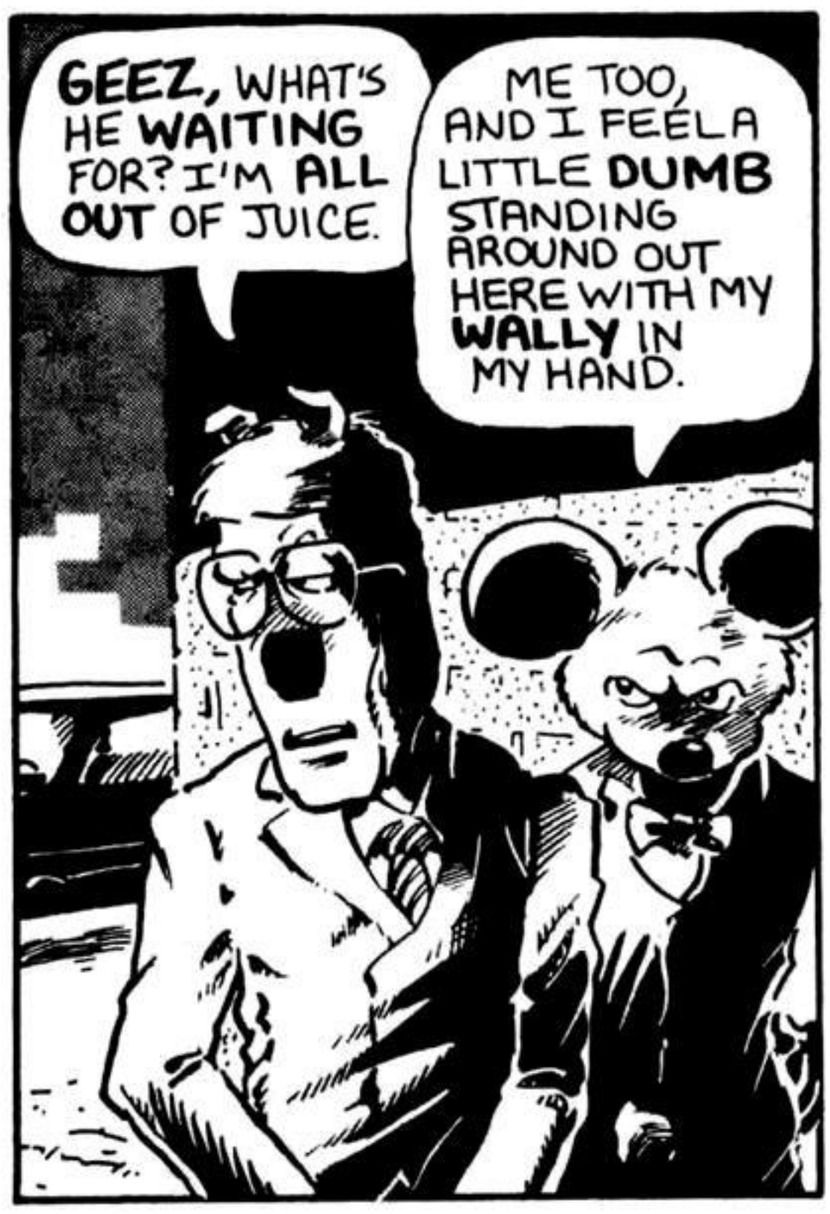

NO LAWS BIND US!
DON'T FORGET; WE'RE MEMBERS OF THE SECRET GOVERNMENT NOW.
DOUBLE SECRET!
THIS IS GREAT. I CAN'T WAIT TO TELL MY BOWLING BUDDIES!

OH, OH.
THE CAT'S AWAKE-- GO INTO THE ROUTINE.
CHECK.

WHOOO-EE, BOY! I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU, BUT I GOTTA WHIZ LIKE CRAZY-- PULL OVER BEHIND THIS BUILDING.

I'M GOING TO GET OUT NOW AND GO ALL THE WAY OVER THERE TO THE ALLEYWAY.
I'LL COME WITH YOU. SHOULD WE LOCK UP THE CAR?


NO. LEAVE IT WIDE OPEN. THE CAT'S STILL OUT COLD-- OTHERWISE HE COULD EASILY ESCAPE. BUT, DON'T WORRY; HE WOULDN'T DARE DEFY THE SECRET GOVERNMENT.
?!


GEEZ, WHAT'S HE WAITING FOR? I'M ALL OUT OF JUICE.
ME TOO, AND I FEEL A LITTLE DUMB STANDING AROUND OUT HERE WITH MY WALLY IN MY HAND.

IT MUST BE A TRICK--NOBODY'S THAT STUPID:.. NOT EVEN C.I.A.
STILL, IT MIGHT BE BEST TO MAKE A RUN FOR IT.

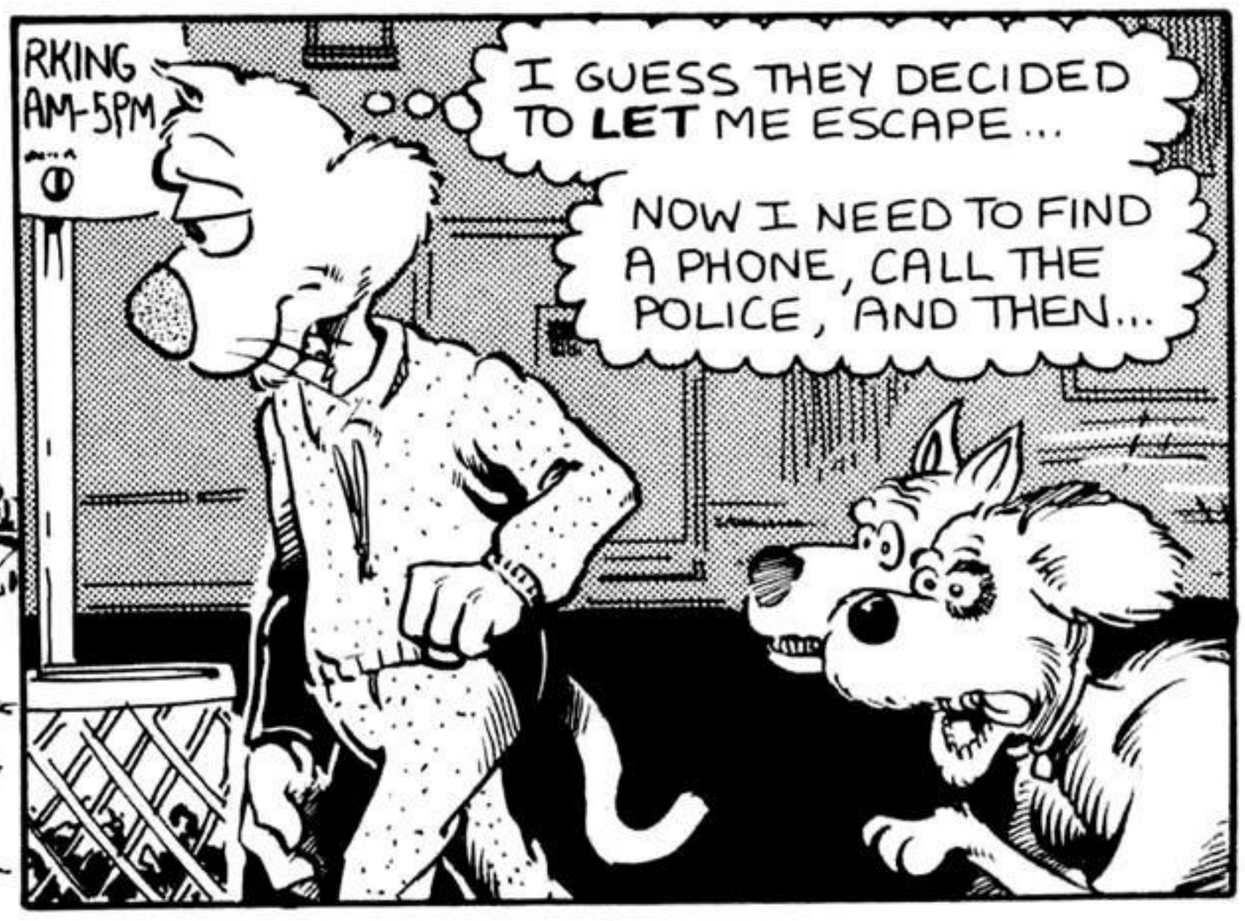
THERE HE GOES! C'MON WE GOTTA FOLLOW HIM.
WHOAWHOA!
HOLD ON, I JUST GOT STARTED AGAIN.

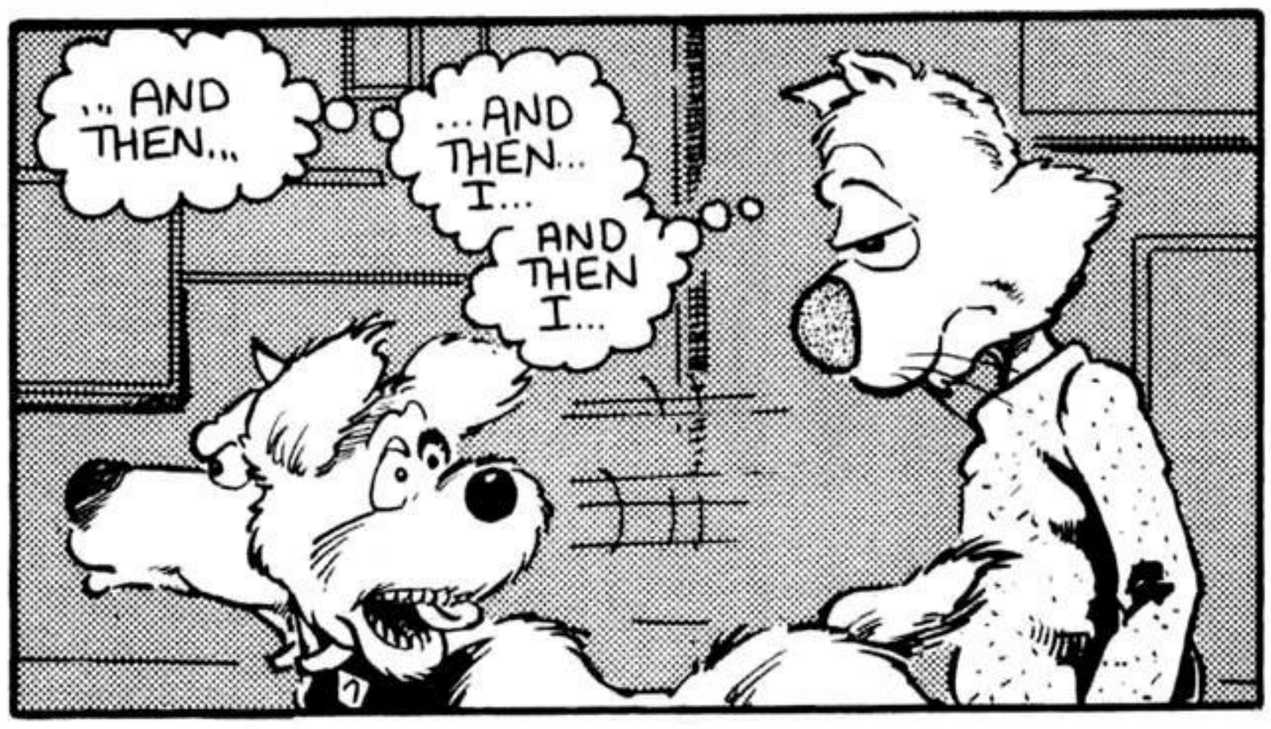
YIKES!
THERE GOES THE DOG, TO JOIN HIM!
HURRY UP!
ARF BARK
YAP

HEY! WHACHOO DOIN' DOWN DERE?
GEDDAWAY FROM DAT GAHBAHGE, YUS KWEERS!

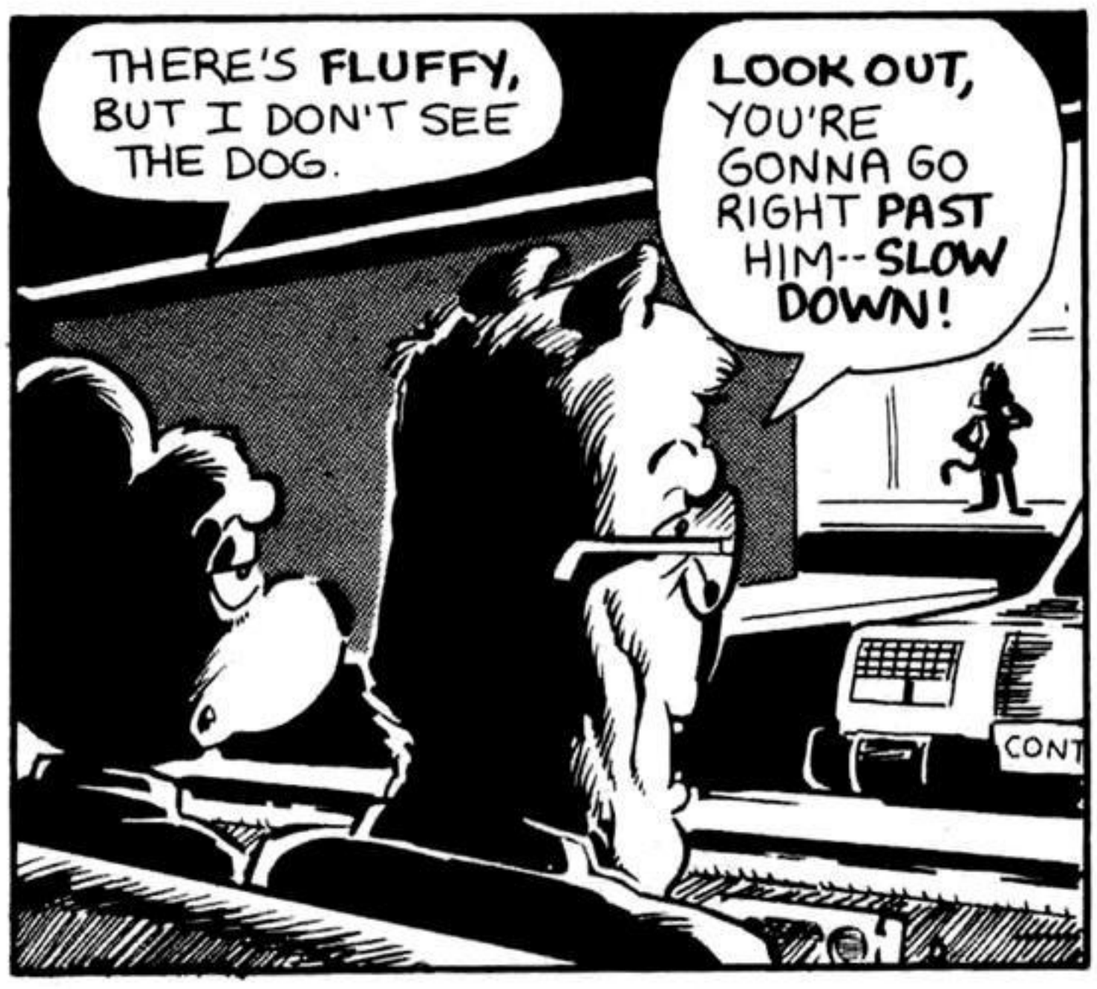
WE'RE NO QUEERS-- WE'RE G-MEN!
GODDAM FUNNY ANIMALS!
THE IRS IS GONNA BE GIVING YOU A CALL, BUDDY!

FLOOR IT! WE DON'T WANT TO LOSE THEM-- THE TWO OF THEM WENT DOWN THIRD AVENUE.

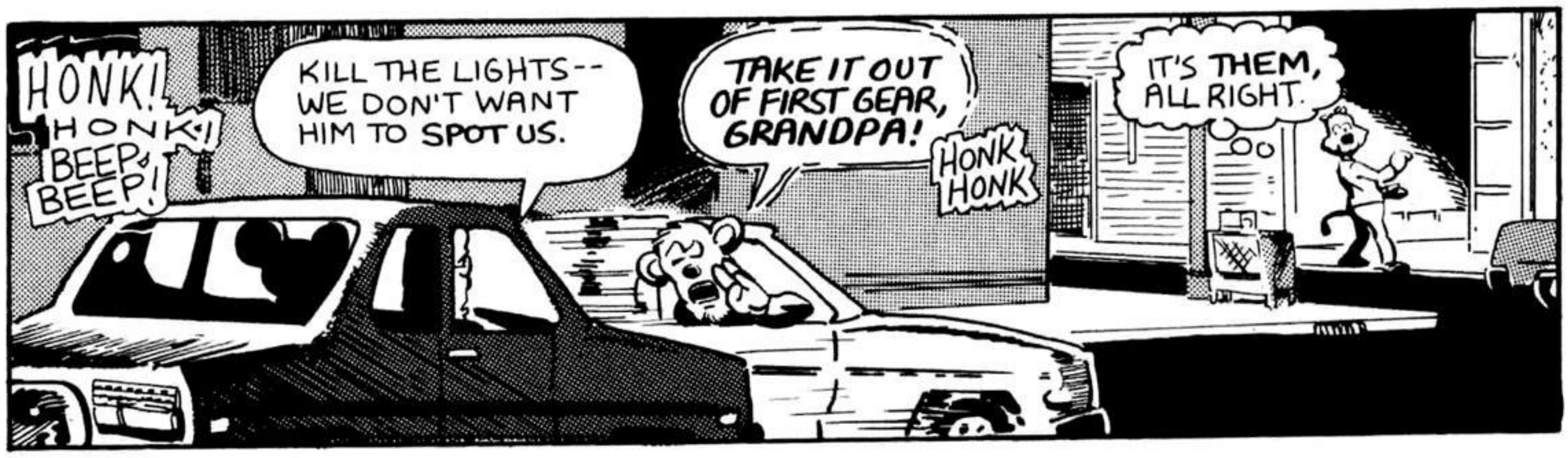

RKING AM-5PM
I GUESS THEY DECIDED TO LET ME ESCAPE...
NOW I NEED TO FIND A PHONE, CALL THE POLICE, AND THEN...

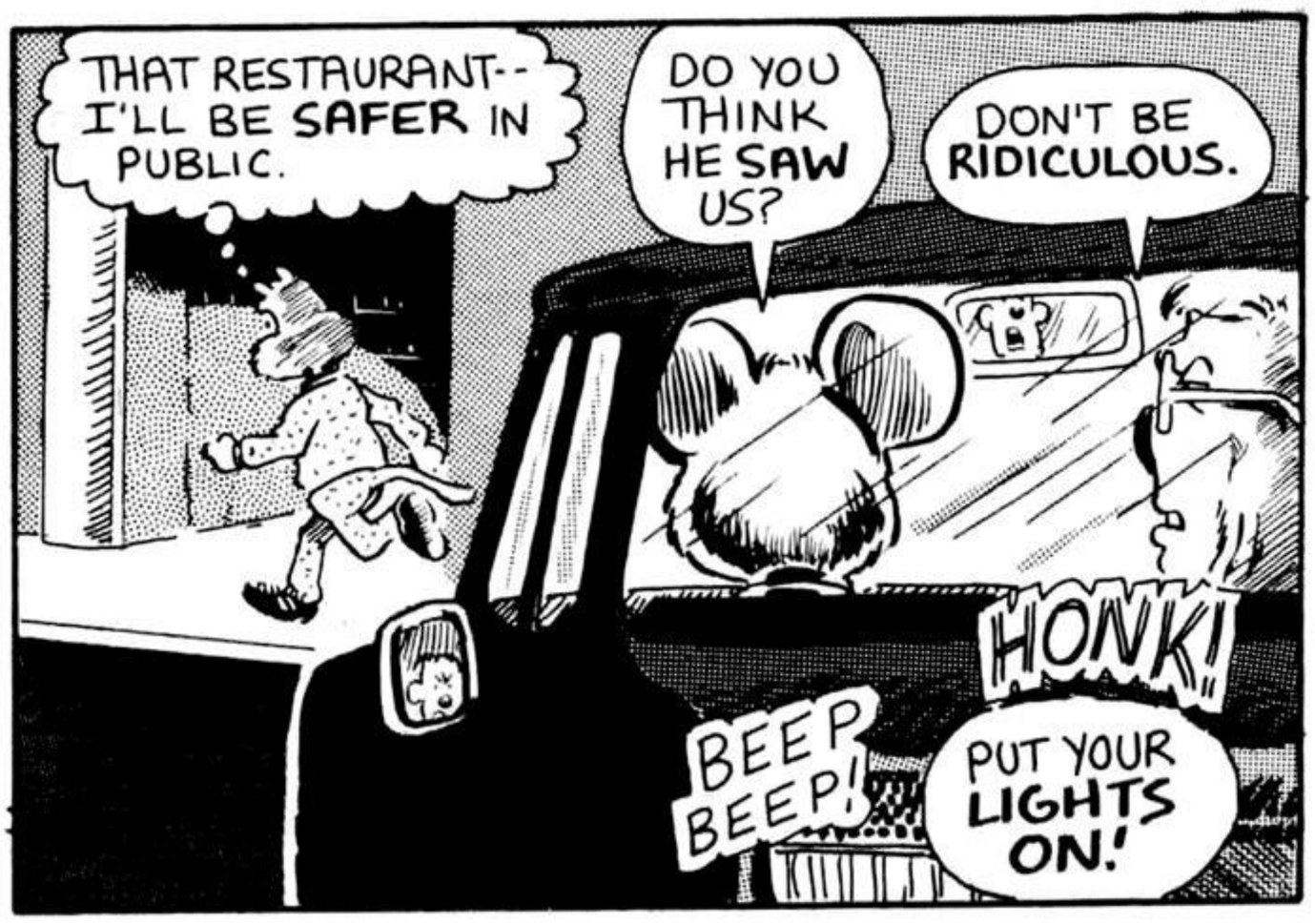

... AND THEN...
...AND THEN... I...
AND THEN I...

THIS IS LIKE DOING A GUEST SHOT ON DOORWAY TO HELL!


THERE'S FLUFFY, BUT I DON'T SEE THE DOG.
LOOK OUT, YOU'RE GONNA GO RIGHT PAST HIM--SLOW DOWN!
CONT

SSCREEEEC
HONK!
WATCH IT, YOU IDIOT!
HONK! HONK!
THE LONG, SKINNY ONE MAKES IT GO, YA MORON!
BEEP BEEP
"IDIOT"? "MORON"? OH, NO-- DON'T TELL ME...


HONK! HONK! BEEP BEEP!
KILL THE LIGHTS-- WE DON'T WANT HIM TO SPOT US.
TAKE IT OUT OF FIRST GEAR, GRANDPA!
HONK HONK
IT'S THEM, ALL RIGHT.


THAT RESTAURANT-- I'LL BE SAFER IN PUBLIC.
DO YOU THINK HE SAW US?
DON'T BE RIDICULOUS.
HONK!
BEEP BEEP!
PUT YOUR LIGHTS ON!

HONK HONK
HE'S HEADING FOR COLONEL MUSTARD'S-- PARK HERE. WE'LL HAVE TO GET HIM OUT OF THERE -- WITHOUT ATTRACTING ATTENTION.

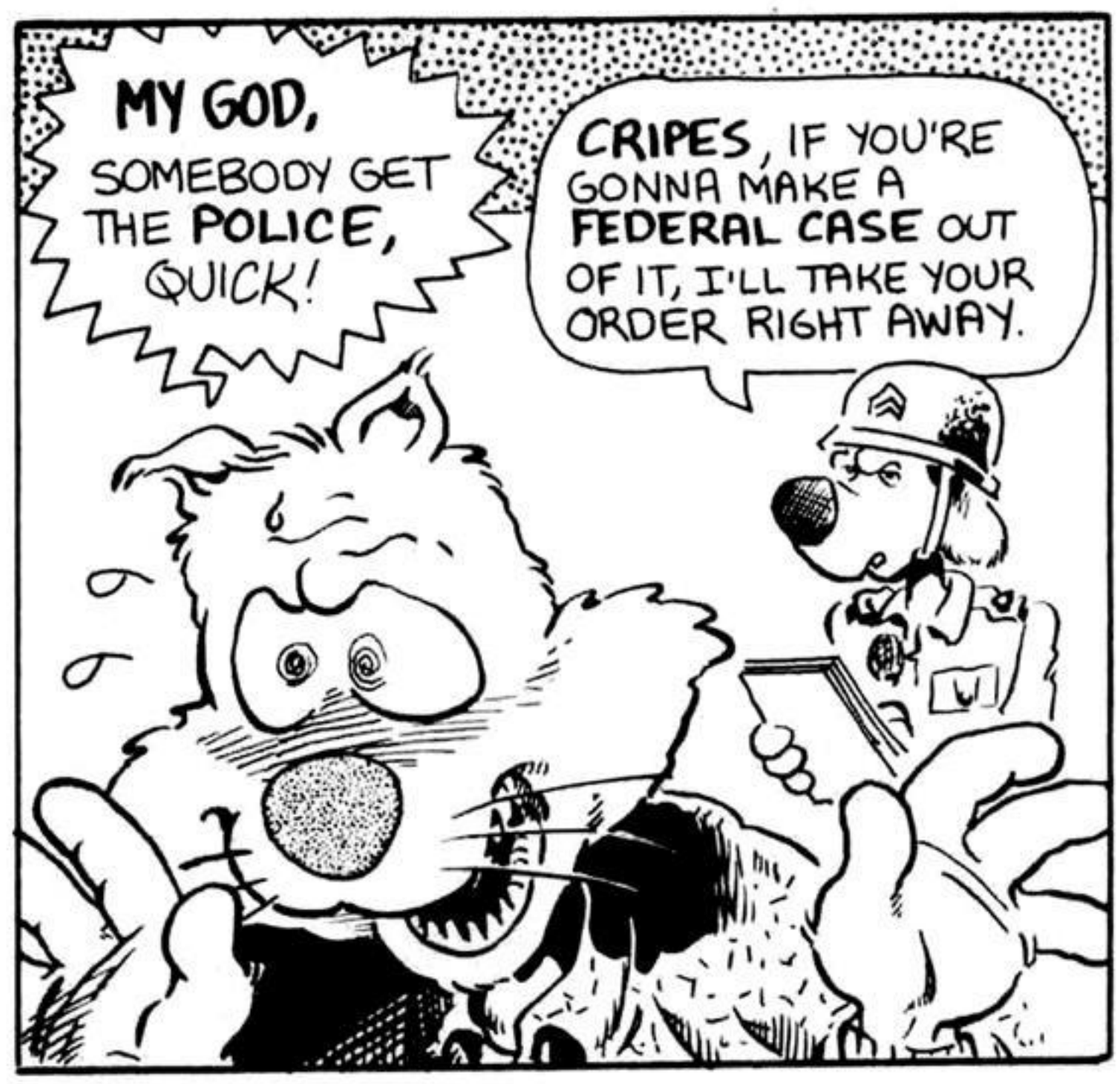
Colonel Mustard's
OPEN 24 HOURS
PLATTE
BOUNCING
WOULD YOU LIKE TO TRY OUR CONTRA PLATTER? IT'S ON SALE.
FULL MEAL JACKET
HUMANITARI PLATTER
.... 1.49
.... 99

DON'T TELL ME WHAT TO ORDER-- I'M MY OWN MAN, DAMMIT!
WE SHOULD START OUR OWN SECRET GOVERNMENT, THAT WAY, WE'D GET WHAT WE DESERVE.
MEESES

WHAT A NEAT IDEA! OF COURSE I'M THE ONLY MAN FOR SECRET PRESIDENT! ME! ME! TOPO' THE WORLD, MA!
PARDON ME, IS THERE A PROBLEM HERE? I'M THE MANAGER, WIMPY.

HEY! WATCH WHAT YOU CALL ME, FATSO -- IF YOU WEREN'T SO BIG I'D POUND YOU!
SLAM!

QUICK! I NEED TO USE YOUR PHONE... IT'S AN EMERGENCY!
I'LL BE WITH YOU IN A FEW MINUTES, CIVILIAN.
TRY OUR

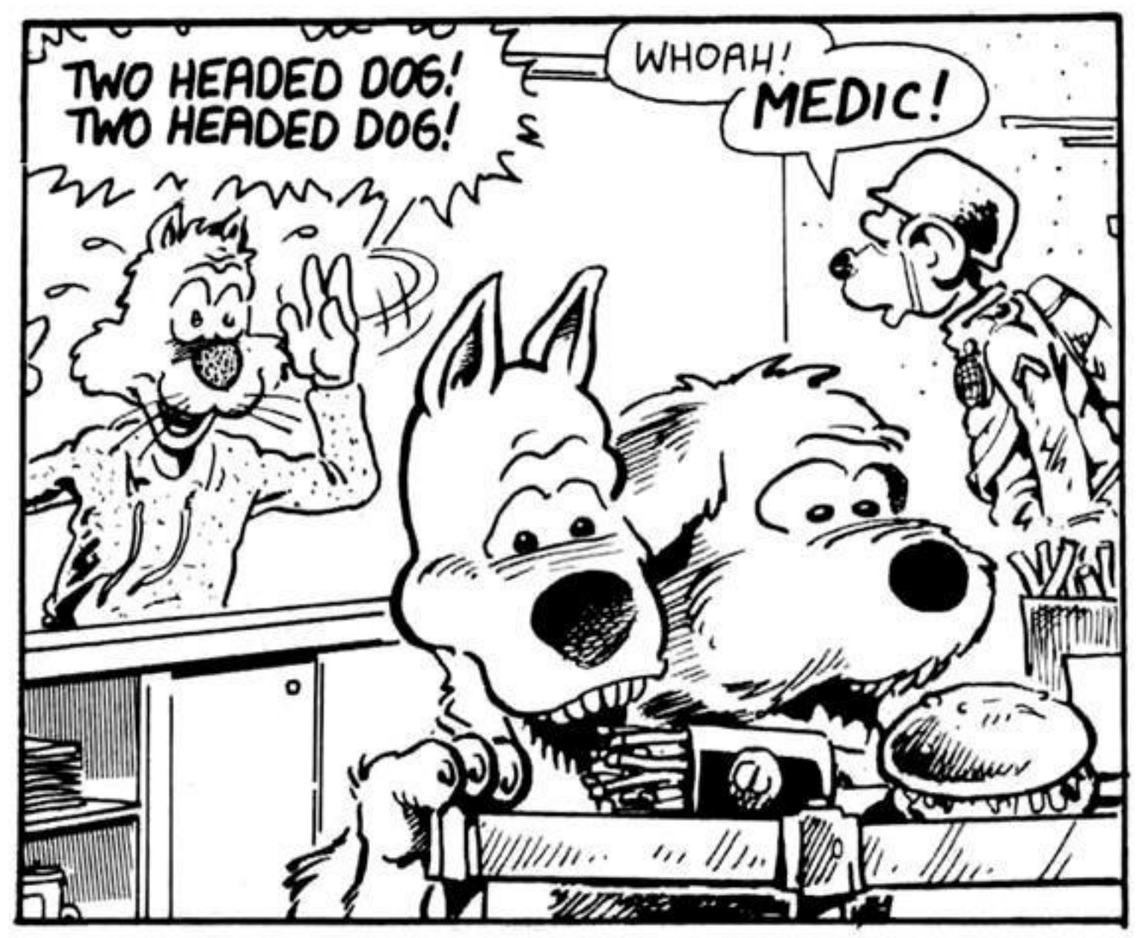

MY GOD, SOMEBODY GET THE POLICE, QUICK!
CRIPES, IF YOU'RE GONNA MAKE A FEDERAL CASE OUT OF IT, I'LL TAKE YOUR ORDER RIGHT AWAY.

I DON'T WANT ANY FOOD... I NEED HELP!
I'LL SAY.
INCOMING!

EMPLOYEES ONLY
XIT
I'M LIABLE TO EAT LEAD IF YOU WON'T LISTEN TO ME!

LOOK, PAL--IF YOU DON'T CALM DOWN I'M GOING TO HAVE TO CALL THE POLICE!
YES! THAT'S IT!! EXACTLY!
NO SMOKING

GO AHEAD! CALL THE... EEEYARGH!
LOOK OUT, HE'S GONE SECTION EIGHT!


TWO HEADED DOG! TWO HEADED DOG!
WHOAH!
MEDIC!

RIVE
HRU
ONLY
THERE HE GOES! HE'S GOT THE CANNIBAL COMBO PAK! FOR CRYIN' OUT LOUD, SOMEBODY TURN AROUND AND LOOK!

HOLD IT RIGHT THERE! HANDS OFF OUR PRISONER!
SECRET GOVERNMENT.
SECRET GOVERNMENT.
SECRET TEAM

DON'T LISTEN TO THEM... IT'S THEIR DOG.
HE'S BEEN YELLIN' ABOUT A TWO HEADED DOG... GUESS HE'S A LOONEY-TUNE, HUH?

WHAT DO WE DO NOW? WE CAN'T TAKE ALL THESE PEOPLE BACK TO POWER TOOL.
FLOUNDERING FATHERS FISH DINNER

ANYBODY IN HERE SEEN A TWO HEADED DOG IN THE BUILDING?

I SAW IT, CAPTAIN-- IT WAS ONE OF THOSE GENETIC EXPERIMENTS THAT...
BE QUIET, WESLEY-- THIS IS A SERIOUS SITUATION.
I SENSE A GREAT HUNGER HERE...
MAYBE I SHOULD GET SOME FRIES TO GO WITH THESE TWENTY CUPS OF COFFEE.

NOBODY SEEN NOTHING, EH? THAT CINCHES IT, THEN-- THIS CAT'S CRAZIER THAN A NUTCAKE.
AWWW, NO... COME ON...

DON'T WORRY, WE'LL TAKE YOU WHERE YOU CAN GET THE HELP YOU NEED.
HEY, WHY DON'T WE GET A COUPLE OF BURGERS AS LONG AS WE'RE HERE?
USH
TRY OUR GUADALCANAL DAIRY MILKSHAKE

WELL, THAT WENT PRETTY SMOOTH, DON'T YOU THINK?
EXIT ONLY
COVERT AS HELL! I GUESS OUR NEXT MOVE IS TO TAKE FUZZY BACK TO POWER TOOL AND GET BETTER INSTRUCTIONS.
OH, GREAT... I SUPPOSE THAT MEANS I'M GOING BACK TO SLEEP.

SOMEONE **TURNED OUT THE LIGHTS** AGAIN...

WHEN THEY TURNED THEM BACK ON, I WAS **DROPPING** LIKE THE **DOW JONES AVERAGE**...

AND I WAS HEADED FOR THAT **DAMNED DOOR** AGAIN!

PROLOGUE:

RRRUMBLE BAROOM PTCHOOM CRRRACK

STREP! **STREP!!** THE STORM IS HERE! TO THE LABORATORY, QUICK!

CAN I FINISH MY SANDWICH FIRST? **OW!!**

COME ON, IDIOT!

DR. VICTOR FRANKENSTANG M.D., Ph.D

NO DELIVERIES BETWEEN 12:30 AND 1:30 P.M.

VISA

MAIL

PROOW

...GET OVER BY THE INPUT REGULATOR! I'VE BEEN WAITING ALL WEEK FOR THIS STORM!!

YEAH, I KNOW... REMEMBER LAST TIME YA HOOKED UP TO THE POWER COMPANY? BOY, WERE THEY PISSED OFF!

...YA BLACKED OUT THE WHOLE COUNTY, AND THEY FINED YA FOR RIGGIN' THE METERS—

SHUT UP AND WATCH THE VOLTAGE LEVELS... THIS TIME I SHALL SUCCEED, DO YOU HEAR?! I SHALL!

HOKAY...

CRRRAKKA TOOM

BZZZZZZ CRACKLE CRACKLE

HAAAAA HAAA

WELL? HOW'S THE PATIENT?

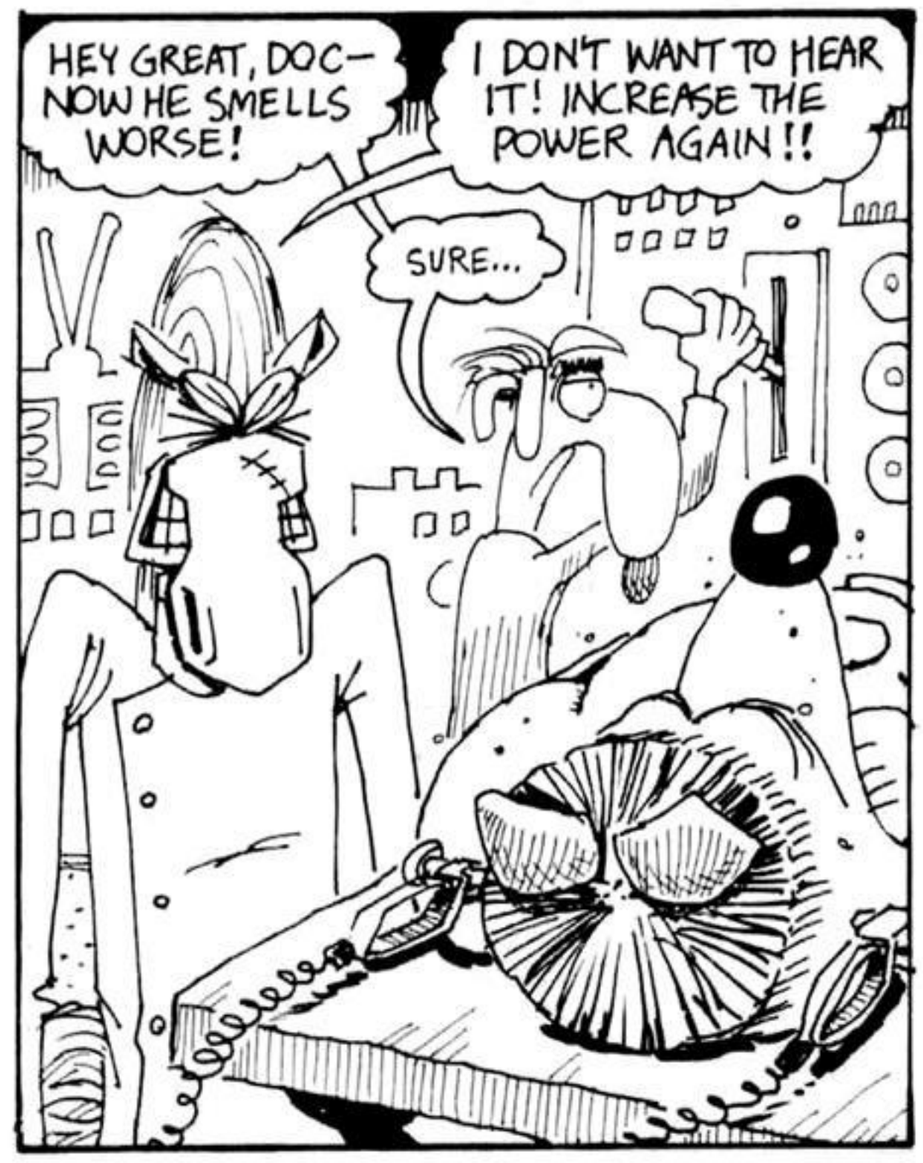
WAIT A MINUTE, WAIT A MINUTE.....

CURSES! SHIT!

UH-OH...

HE'S NOT ALIVE YET...
I DIDN'T THINK SO... I CAN SMELL HIM FROM HERE!
JUST INCREASE THE POWER, THANK YOU!!

BARROOM
ZZZZZZZZ


HEY GREAT, DOC— NOW HE SMELLS WORSE!
I DON'T WANT TO HEAR IT! INCREASE THE POWER AGAIN!!
SURE...

KTCHOOM
ZZZZZZ

OH BOY... YOU KNOW, I DON'T THINK THIS IS GONNA PAN OUT, DOC! LET'S GET STONED!

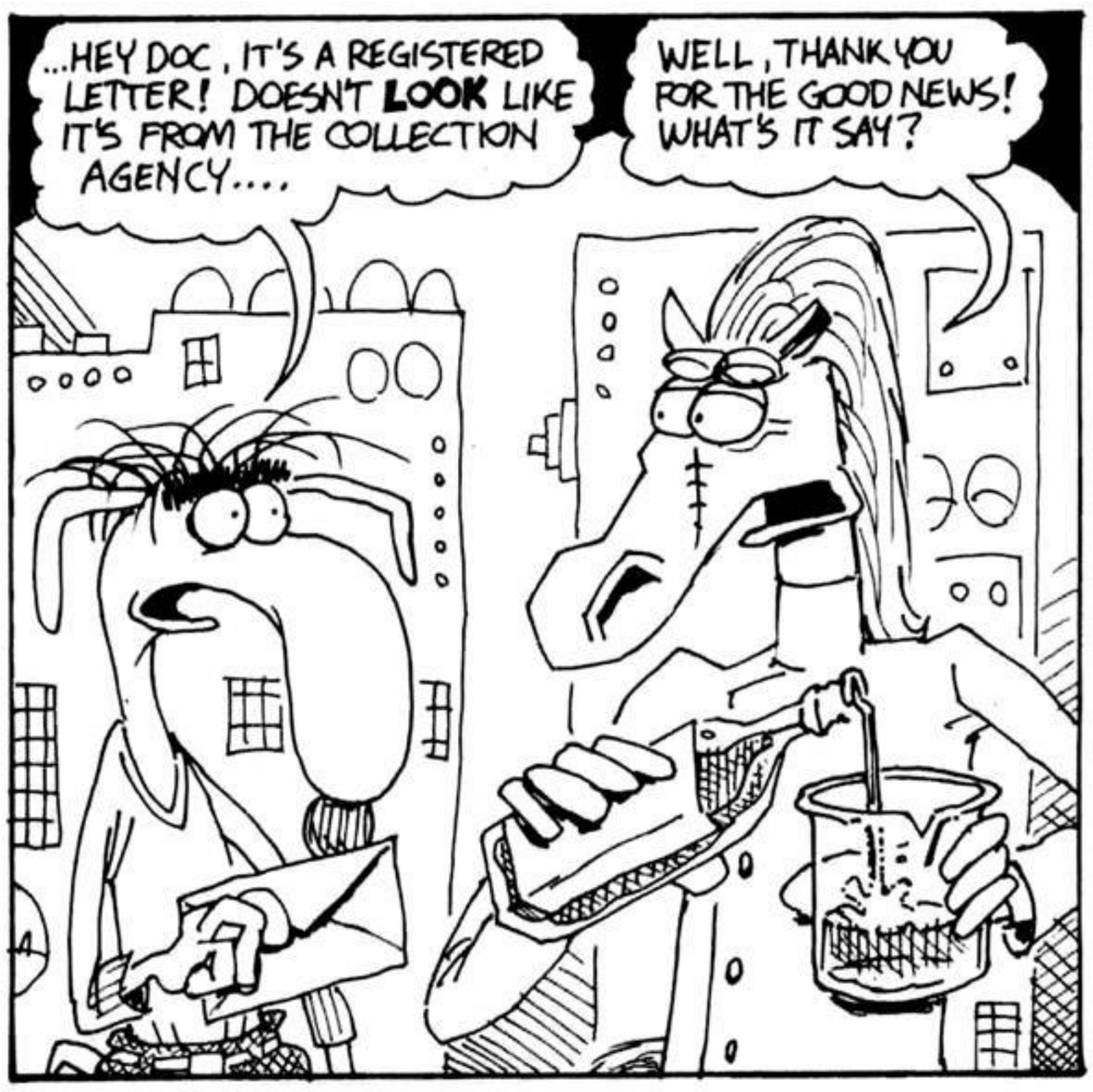
SHUT UP! SHUT UP!! IF ALL YOU CAN DO IS MAKE STUPID REMARKS, THEN I'LL DO THIS BY MYSELF!... YOU DISGUSTING OAF!
I AIN'T DISGUSTIN'
NOW! HERE WE GO!
CLAC CLIC SWITCH SNAP
CLACK

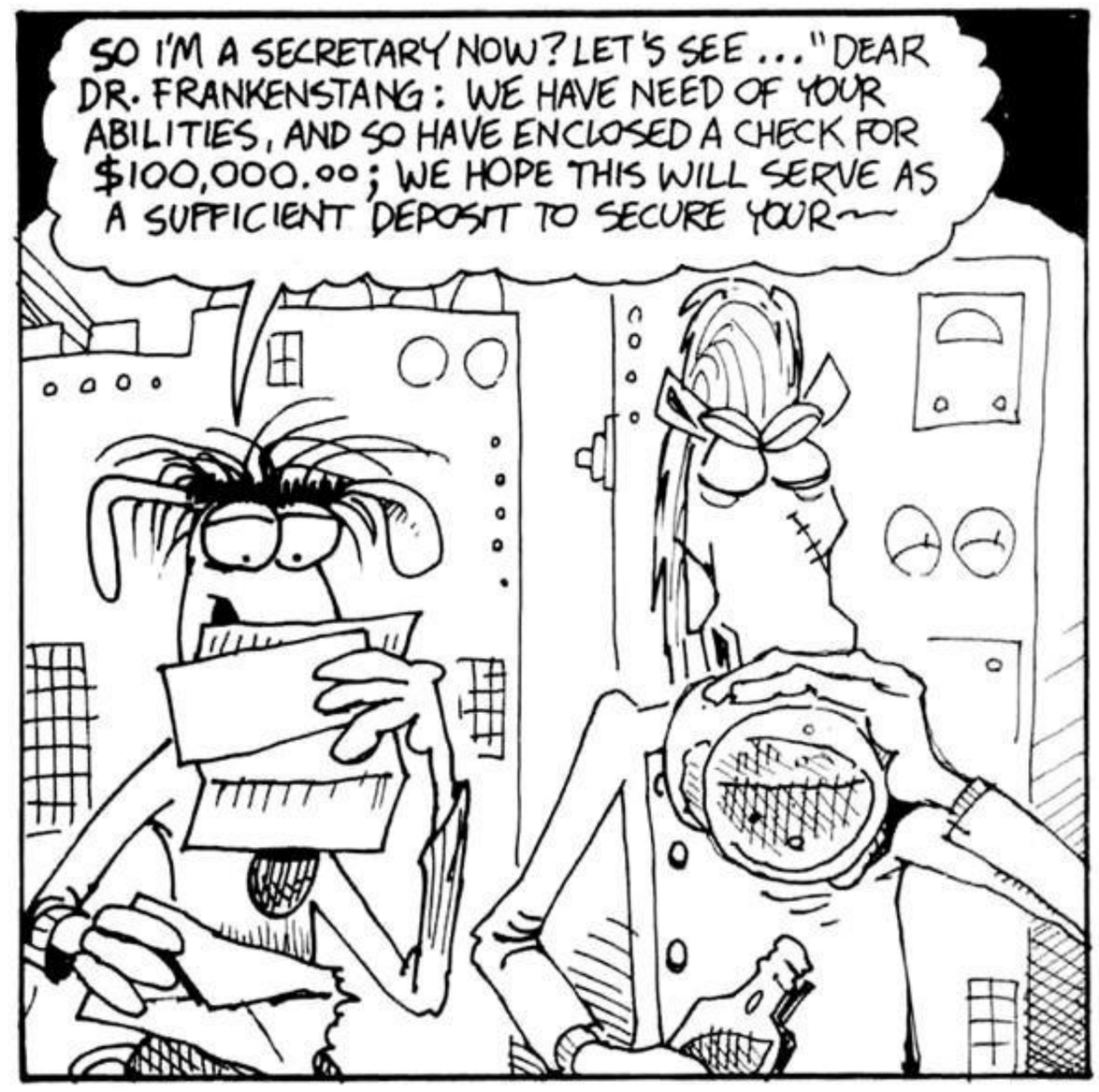
FRAZZZZZZ
ZAKAK FOOF

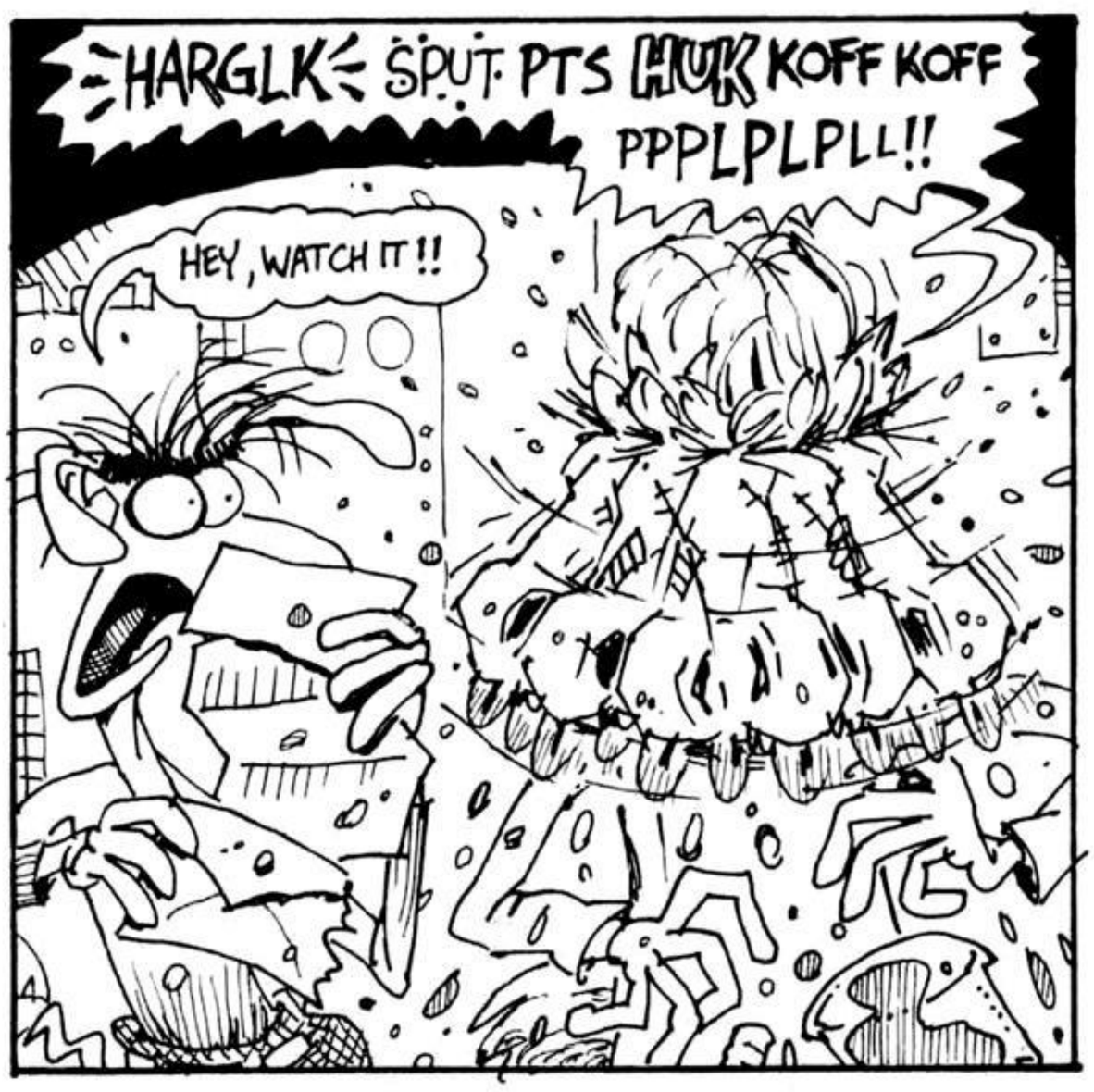
....

I'M GOING TO GO BACK TO PODIATRY...
WELL, LOOK — WHY DO YOU WANNA MAKE DEAD FOLKS WALK AROUND ANYWAY, HUH? THE WORLD'S OVERCROWDED WITH LIVE PEOPLE AS IT IS...Y'KNOW?
PFFF

I NEED A DRINK.
DING DONG
SEE WHO'S AT THE DOOR AND TELL THEM TO GO AWAY
'HOKAY!
THINK
PIZZA KING
TRUDGE TRUDGE TRUDGE


...HEY DOC, IT'S A REGISTERED LETTER! DOESN'T LOOK LIKE IT'S FROM THE COLLECTION AGENCY....
WELL, THANK YOU FOR THE GOOD NEWS! WHAT'S IT SAY?

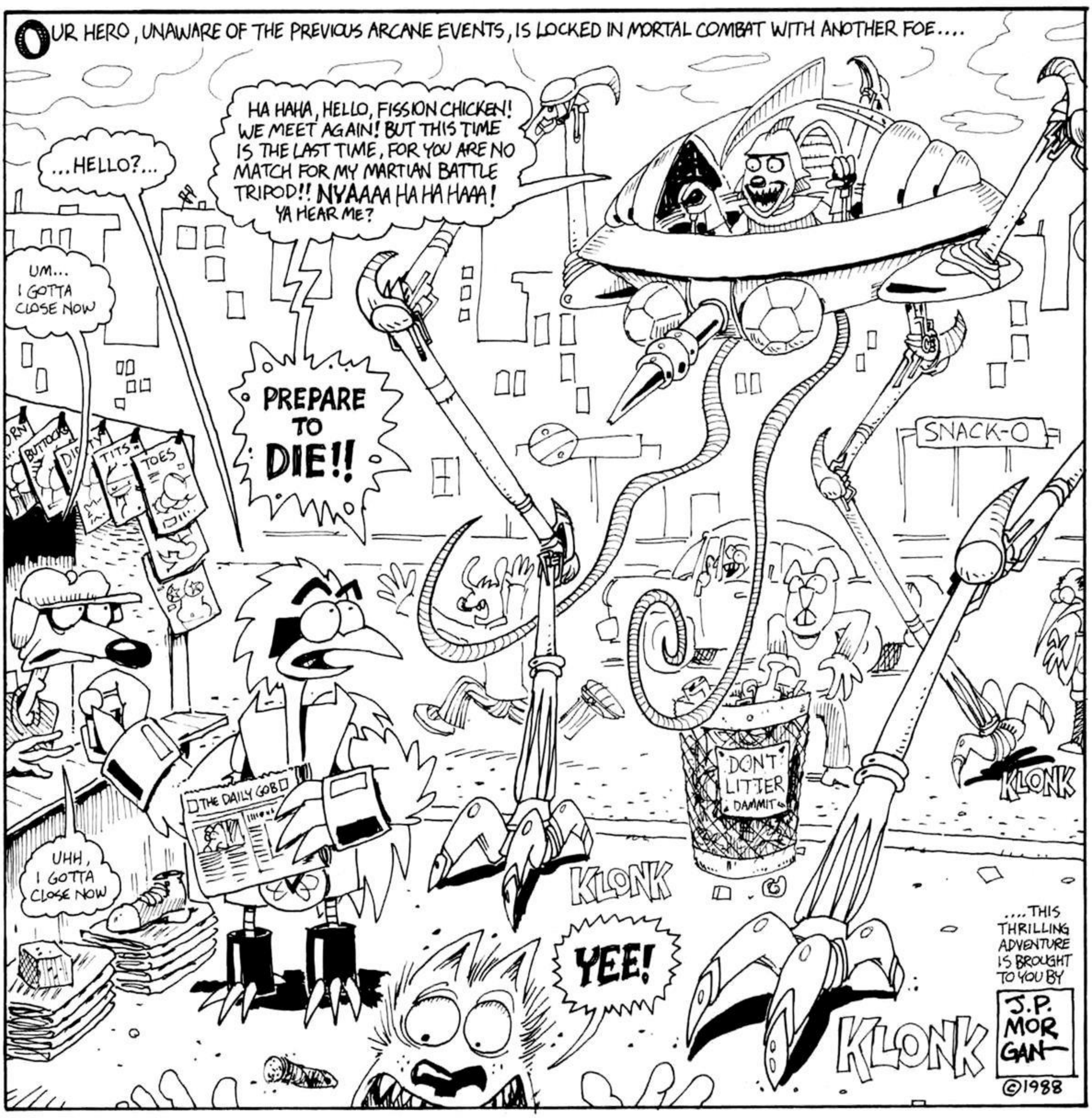

SO I'M A SECRETARY NOW? LET'S SEE..."DEAR DR. FRANKENSTANG: WE HAVE NEED OF YOUR ABILITIES, AND SO HAVE ENCLOSED A CHECK FOR $100,000.00; WE HOPE THIS WILL SERVE AS A SUFFICIENT DEPOSIT TO SECURE YOUR—


HARGLK SPUT PTS HUK KOFF KOFF PPPLPLPLL!!
HEY, WATCH IT!!

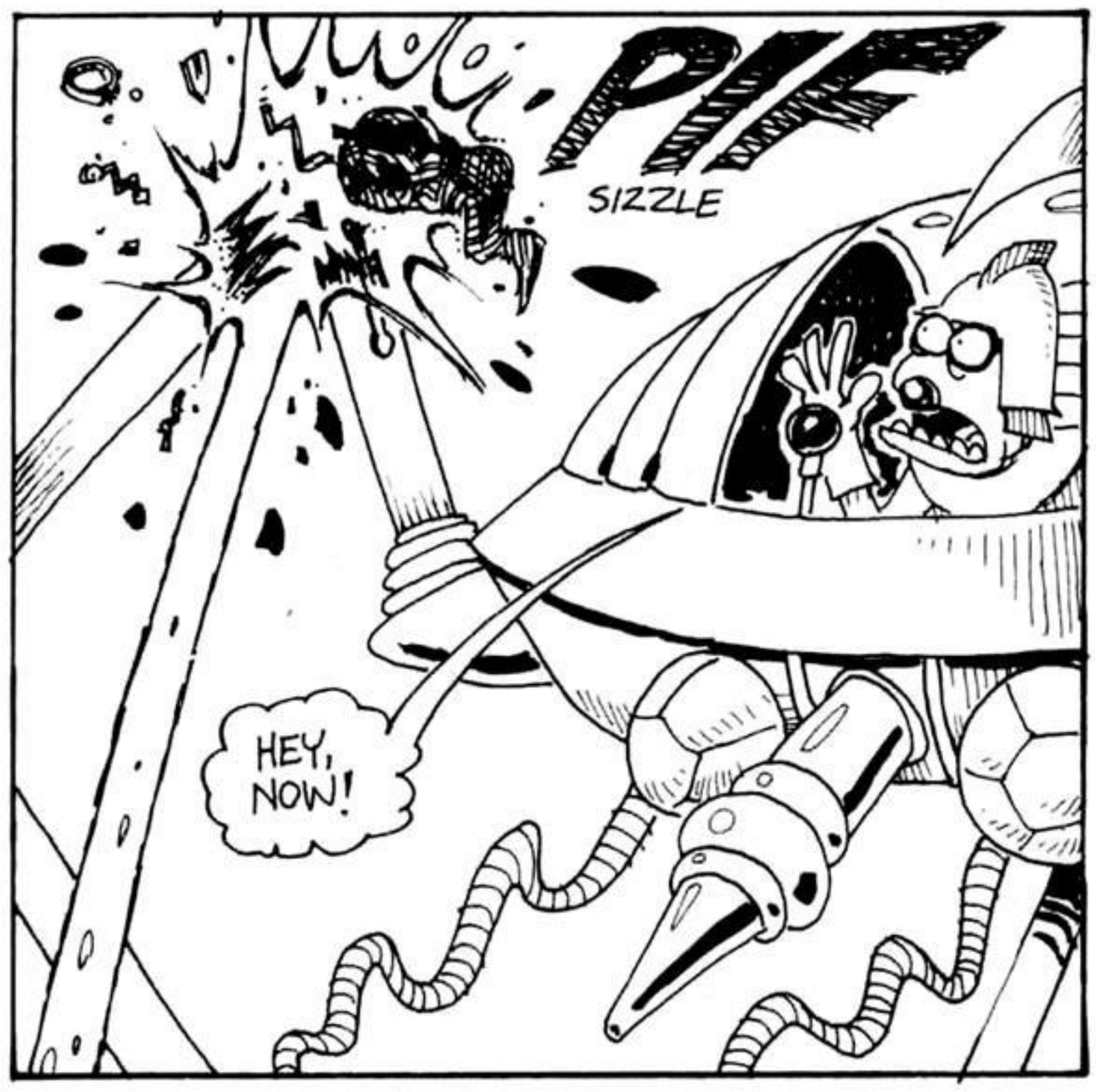
ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS?!? $100,000.00!?! GIVE ME THAT....NOW HERE'S SOMEBODY WHO KNOWS TRUE VALUE!! BUT WHO IS IT? IT'S... IT'S—
HEY, DOES THIS MEAN I GET PAID THIS MONTH?
SHH
DELI
Shoes & Stuff

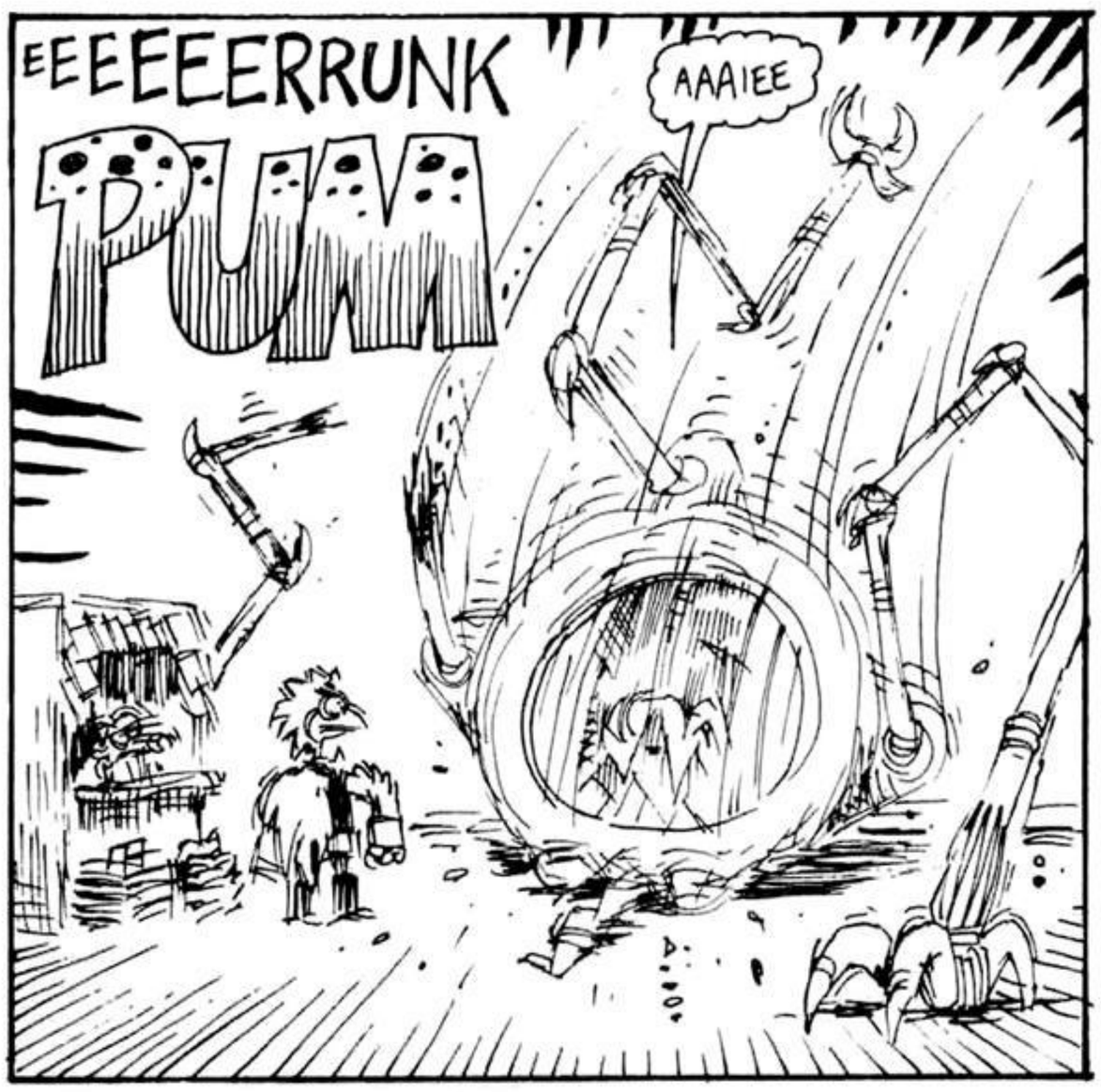
YES, IT'S FISSION CHICKEN in...

"THEY SAVED WALT'S BRAIN"



I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE, BUT I'M ON MY WAY TO HAVE LUNCH— DO YOU MIND?
ZISH

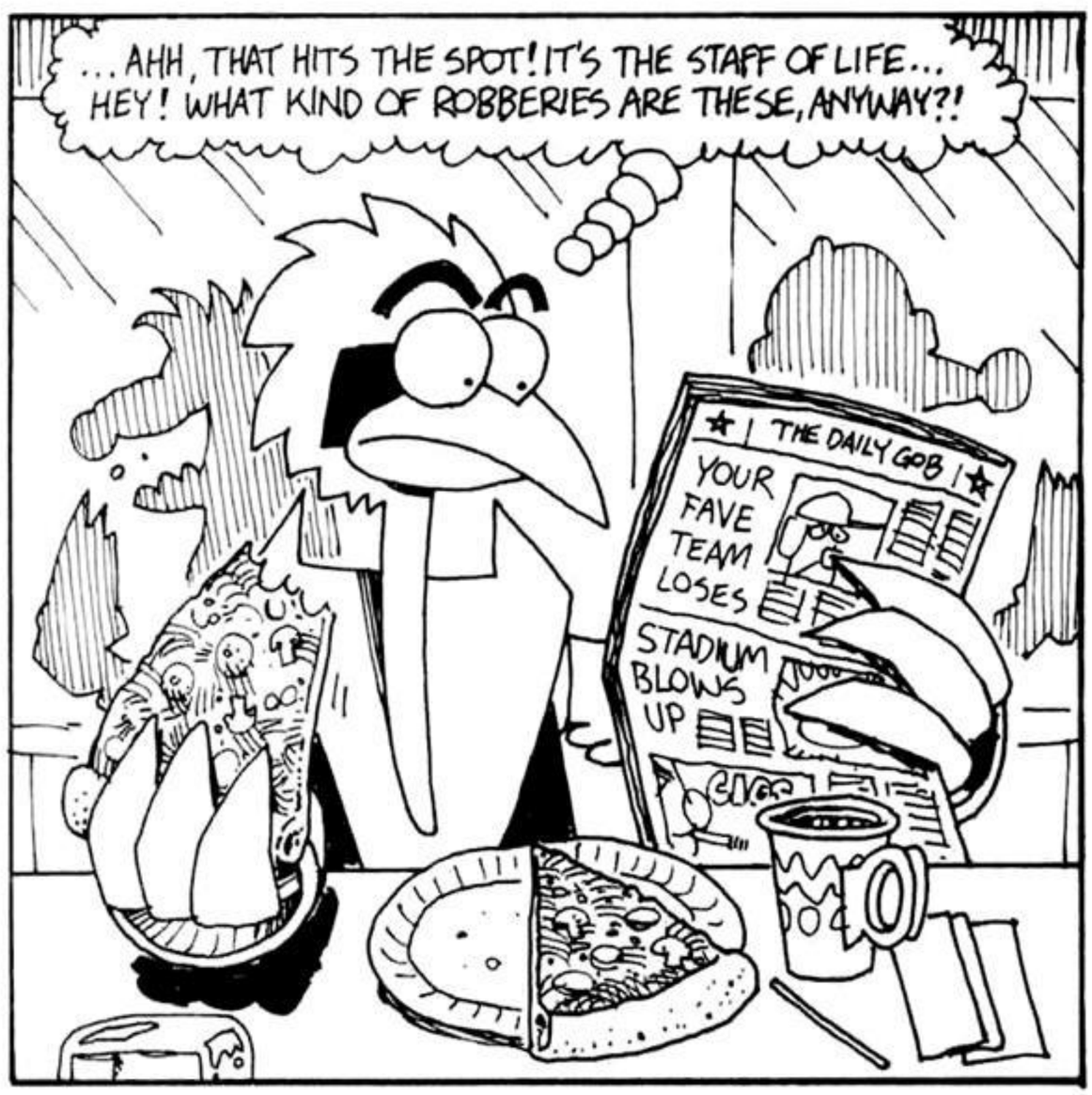

PIF
SIZZLE
HEY, NOW!


EEEEERRUNK
PUM
AAAIEE

YOU CREEP! YOU LIBERAL! LOOK WHAT YOU'VE DONE! THIS IS AN ANTIQUE... IT'S IRREPLACEABLE!
GREAT! IF IT'S IRREPLACEABLE, THAT MEANS YOU WON'T BE DOING THIS ANYMORE! C'MON, THE NICE POLICEMEN WANT YOU TO GO WITH THEM...
I...I'LL SUE! I WILL!

HERE YOU GO, OFFICERS! IF HE'S A WANTED MAN, YOU KNOW WHERE TO SEND THE REWARD MONEY!
YOU DON'T KNOW WHO THIS IS? HE'S ARNIE SNOTWELL, THE MAD BAKER! YOU PUT HIM AWAY A COUPLE YEARS AGO!
...HE IS?! GEEZ, I DIDN'T EVEN RECOGNIZE HIM IN THIS GET-UP!...
NO PRISON CAN HOLD ME!

ARNIE SNOTWELL! I HAVEN'T SEEN THAT FLAKE SINCE I PUT HIM AWAY FOR SELLING EXPLODING BROWNIES!...WHERE'D HE GET A MARTIAN TRIPOD FROM, ANYWAY?? OH WELL... LATER FOR THAT!
PIZZA
AND STUFF


...AHH, THAT HITS THE SPOT! IT'S THE STAFF OF LIFE... HEY! WHAT KIND OF ROBBERIES ARE THESE, ANYWAY?!
THE DAILY GOB
YOUR FAVE TEAM LOSES
STADIUM BLOWS UP

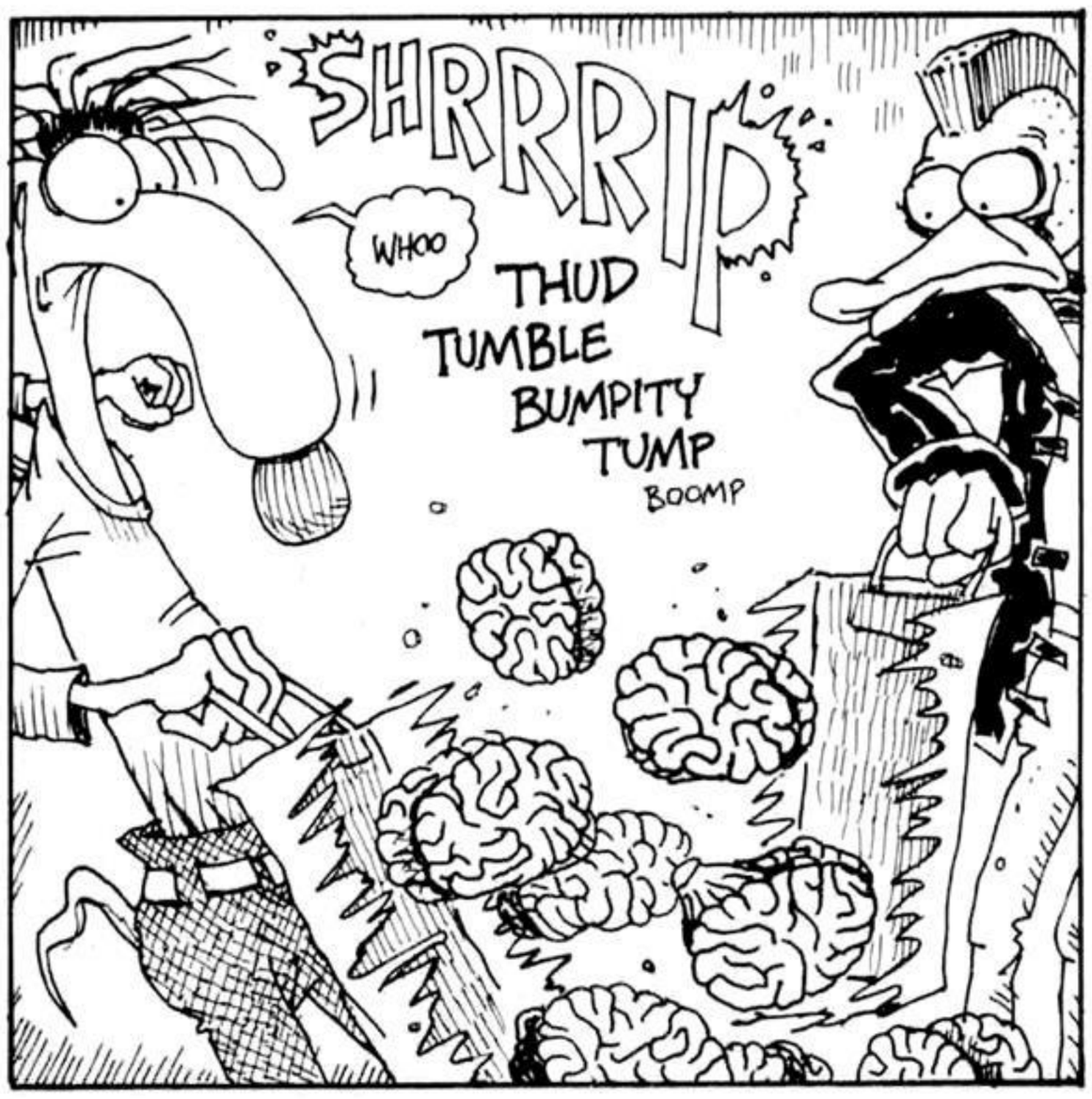
"BRAINS BEING STOLEN!"... IT'S BEEN HAPPENING AT ALL THE MORGUES AND HOSPITALS; NOTHING BUT BRAINS MISSING! SAYS HERE THAT A LOT OF PEOPLE ARE UPSET... WELL, THAT'S NOT TOO SURPRISING!
THE DAILY GOB
MORE MORGUE ROBBERIES
HOW DO WE KNOW?
IDIOT WINS ELECTION
BRAINS BEING STOLEN, AGAIN
EXPLODING BROWNIES
2-HEADED MONSTER LEVELS TOKYO

THIS IS REALLY ILL! I'D GO AND LOOK FOR THE BRAIN THIEVES TODAY, BUT I'M SUPPOSED TO BUST UP SOME KITTY PORNOGRAPHERS LATER... I THINK I'LL HAVE A DOUGHNUT AFTER THE PIZZA....
OH GEEEEEEZ!!! IT'S HIM!! FISSION CHICKEN! WHAT DO I DO NOW?!?
YOUR FAVE TEAM LOSES
STADIUM BLOWS UP
BIG WHIZ
FRICKLESON'S THE EXPENSIVE GIFT SHOP

I HAVEN'T FINISHED MY PIZZA... IF I GET UP AND LEAVE NOW, HE'LL GET SUSPICIOUS! WHY'D HE HAVE TO SIT NEXT TO ME? PROBABLY COMES HERE ALL THE TIME! I CAN'T PANIC! I CAN'T I CAN'T I CAN'T ...HE'LL MASH ME TO A PULP, THAT'S WHAT HE'LL DO
$?
FRICKLESON'S THE EXPENSIVE GIFT SHOPPE

BOY, WOULD I EVER LIKE TO PANIC! I'D LOVE TO RUN OUT THE DOOR SCREAMING, BUT HE'D NOTICE
GRAB
HEY!
FRICKLESON'S THE EXPENSIVE GIFT SHOPPE

YA STINKIN' CROOK!! LEGGO!! GO GET A @#!!#$!'N JOB – LET GO!!
HEY!
HEY- WATCH YOUR LANGUAGE!


SHRRRIP
WHOO
THUD
TUMBLE
BUMPITY
TUMP
BOOMP

ICK... EURGH! BLAHHHHH
HEY, WHAT THE HELL'S GOING ON HERE? WHERE'D YOU GET THOSE?!
HOW'S YER PIZZA?

OKAY, YOU DISGUSTING GHOUL — WHY ARE YOU CARRYING A BAG OF BRAINS AROUND? YOU BETTER HAVE A GOOD REASON! WHAT'S THE DEAL HERE?
UMM, SAY.... SHOULDN'T YOU BE CHASING THAT EVIL BAG-SNATCHER? EH? NO?

NEVER MIND ABOUT HIM! YOU START EXPLAINING, OR I'LL START MAKING YOU EAT THESE THINGS!
YECH! HELP! GORBO! I'M IN DEEP SHIT! YO, GORBO!!
SEIZE

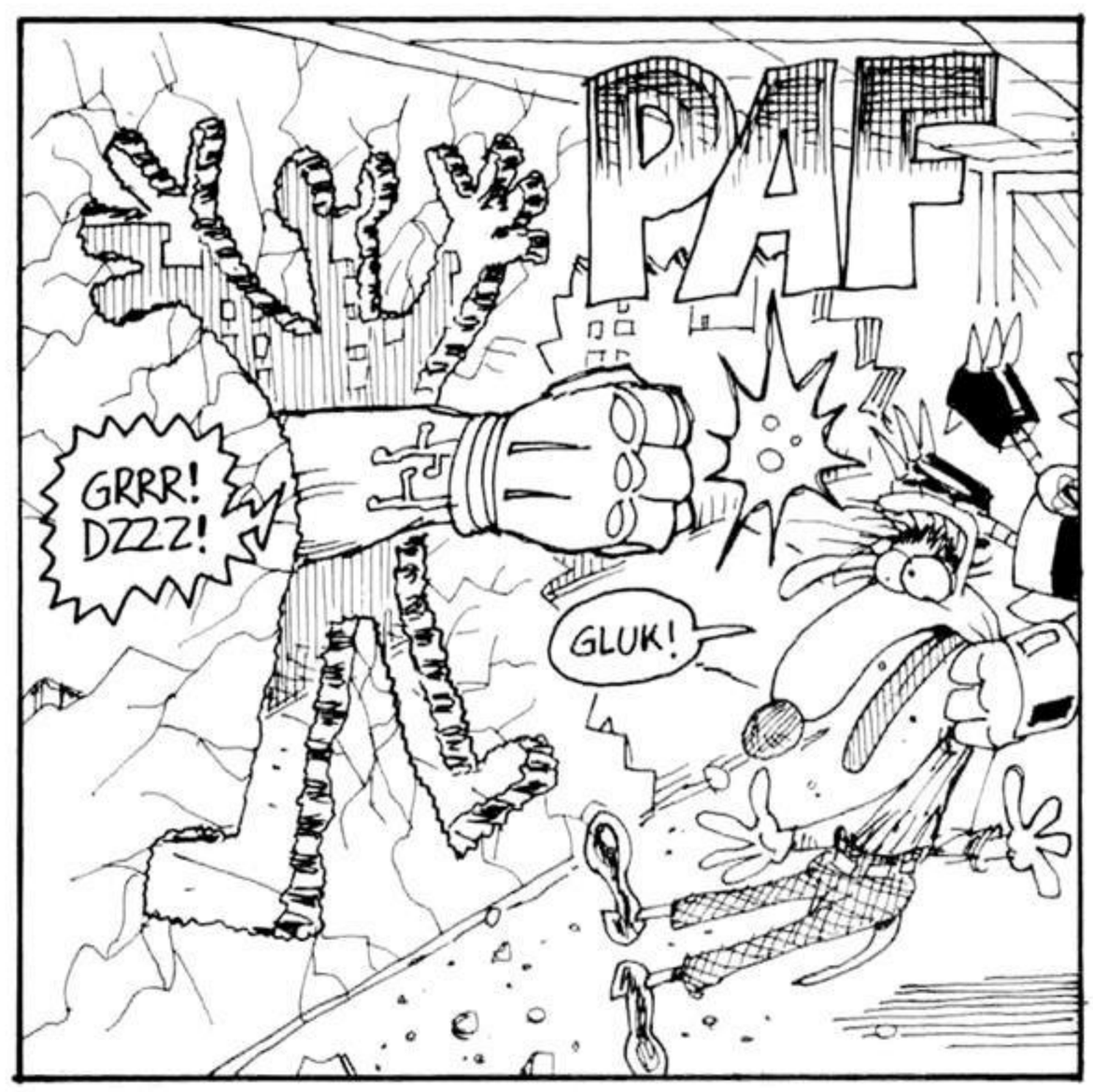
SO WHO'S GORBO?
DUMP
GRRR! DZZZ! GRRR! DZZZ!
THIS IS GORBO?
WELL, UH, YEAH

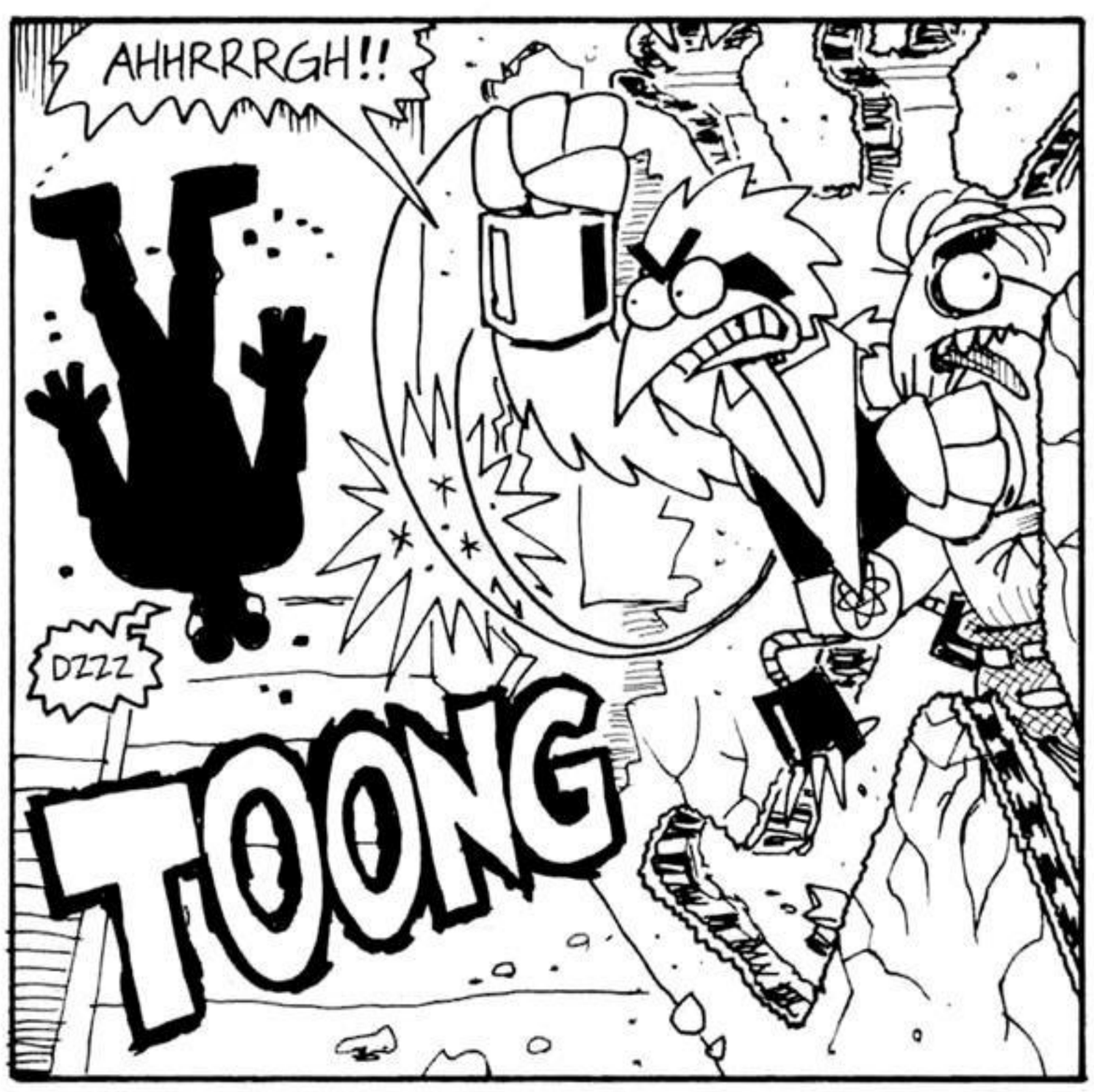
SO YOU'RE HIS PARTNER, HUH? WELL, YOU LISTEN — IF YOU TRY GIVING ME ANY TROUBLE, YOU'RE GONNA GET IT!! SAVVY?

OUCH!
WUNCH!

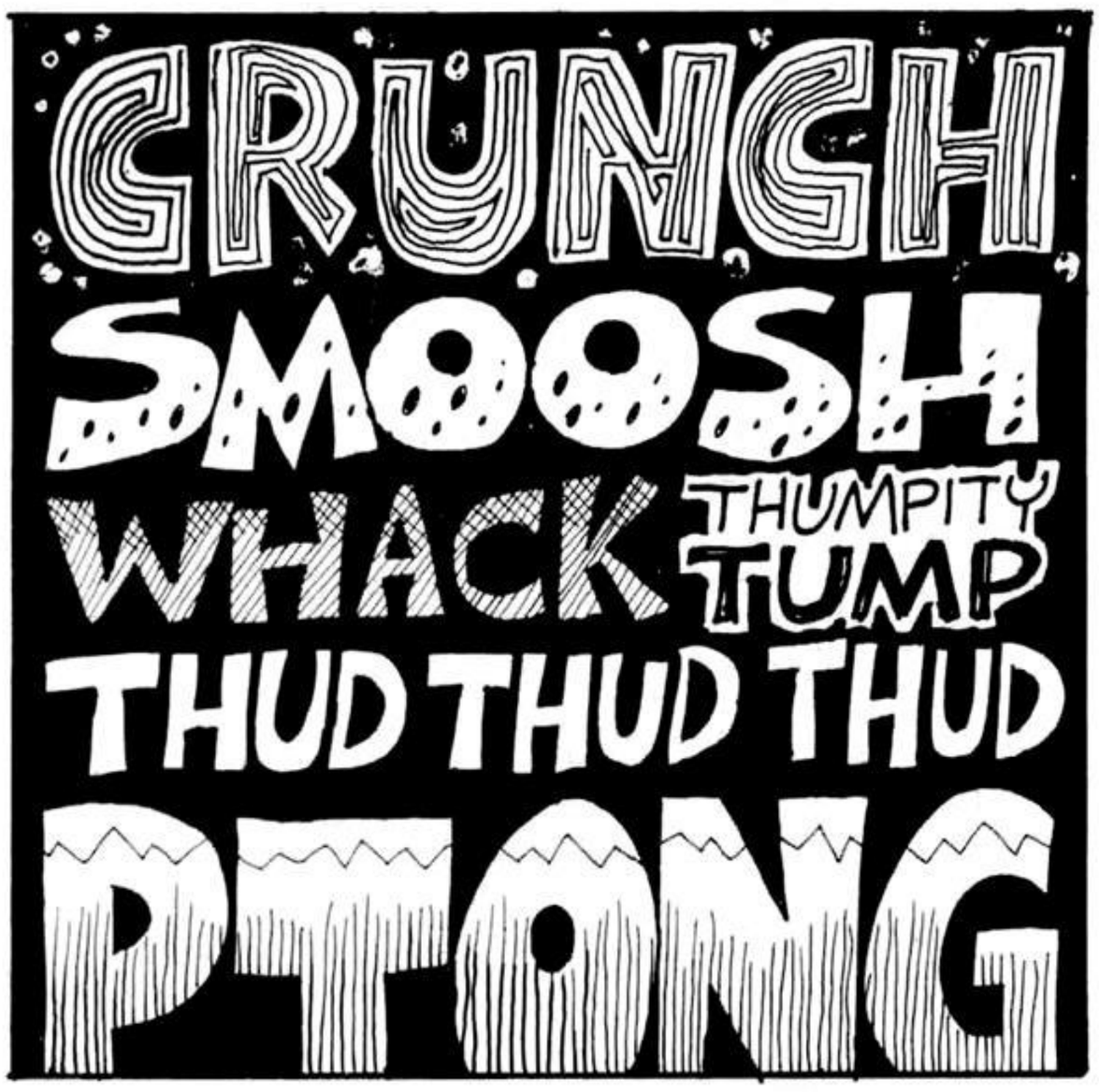
YOU UGLY JERK!
TAKE THAT!
ONE

...YOU AND YOUR PAL OUT THERE BETTER COME ALONG WITH ME! WHAT'RE YOU CALLED?
'STREP'... 'STREP' O'COCCUS!
IS HIS NAME REALLY GORBO?
S'WAT I CALL HIM
LEAP


PAF
GRRR! DZZZ!
GLUK!


AHHRRRGH!!
DZZZ
TOONG

GRRR!!
HAVE AT YA!
OW.


CRUNCH
SMOOSH
WHACK
THUMPITY TUMP
THUD THUD THUD
PFONG

TAKE THIS! AND THIS AND THIS AND THIS AND THIS AND THIS
GOSH!
WAIT 'TILL I TELL THE FELLAS!
HA!
BOM BOM BOM BOM BOM BOM BOM

...THERE, THAT'LL TEACH YOU TO BUST UP MY FAVORITE PIZZA PARLOR! AND NOW I WANT TO ASK THE OTHER WEIR-- HEY, WHERE'D HE GO?

YOU MEAN THAT SCRAWNY GUY? HE WENT OFF IN A CAB WHILE YOU WERE BUSY FIGHTIN' THAT... WHATEVER-IT-IS...
HE WHAT?! WHY DIDN'T YOU STOP HIM??
YOU WANTED HIM STOPPED? HECK, I THOUGHT YOU WERE RESCUING HIM!
AHRRRGHH!
SORRY!

HE WAS THE BRAIN THIEF!!...THIS ALWAYS HAPPENS TO ME— I'LL FIGHT OFF A BIG UGLY MENACE, AND THE MAIN VILLAIN GOES AND ESCAPES! IT PUTS A REAL KINK IN MY COLON, I MEAN TO TELL YA
HEY, I SAID I WAS SORRY!

(SIGH) WELL, LISTEN...I CAN'T POSSIBLY FIT THIS THING IN MY APARTMENT, SO HOW ABOUT I PUT IT IN ONE OF THE CELLS AT THE STATION?
WHAT? HEY C'MON, I DON'T WANT THAT IN MY STATION...IT'S TOO BIG AND UGLY! Y'KNOW...?
?
WHAT ARE YOU... KIDDING ME??
WELL, IT IS!!

OKAY... YOU WANT TO BE THAT WAY? I'LL JUST TURN IT LOOSE, AND IT'LL TERRORIZE THE NEIGHBORHOOD, AND WHEN EVERYONE ASKS ME ABOUT IT, I'LL JUST HAVE TO TELL THEM THAT THE COPS WOULDN'T TAKE IT BECAUSE IT WAS TOO BIG AND UGLY!! HOW WILL THAT SOUND?

ALRIGHT, ALRIGHT ALREADY!! GEEZ... I'LL SEND FOR A TRUCK! THAT GOOD ENOUGH FOR YA?

OKAY THEN!

IDIOT! MORON! HYDROCEPHALIC! NITWIT! CRETIN! FOOL! NINNY!

HEY, I LOVE YOU TOO, DOC...

GRANOLA

BOOKS

HOW COULD YOU LOSE AN ENTIRE BAGFUL OF BRAINS?? DON'T YOU REALIZE HOW IMPORTANT THIS IS?!

HEY! I DIDN'T "LOSE" THEM... SOME JERK TRIED TO SWIPE 'EM, AND THEN FISSION CHICKEN WRINGS MY NECK! HE GOT GORBO, TOO... IT'S BEEN A BAD DAY!

WELL, YOU'LL HAVE A WORSE DAY IF OUR SPONSOR IS UNHAPPY WITH YOUR BUNGLING! HE'S PUTTING A LOT OF MONEY INTO THIS!

UH-HUH... SO WHEN ARE YOU GONNA PAY ME?

PAY YOU? **HA!** YOU'RE LUCKY I DON'T FIRE YOU!

YEAH, REAL LUCKY...

BREAD

...I NEEDED THOSE BRAINS FOR FURTHER TESTS! WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN WHEN I EXPLAIN HOW YOU LOST THEM? OOPS!

HEH... WELL NOW, BOYS, THERE'S NO REAL REASON TO WORK OURSELVES INTO A TIZZY, NOW IS THERE?...

...IT SURE SEEMS TO ME, FELLAS, THAT THE TESTING SO FAR HAS GONE JUST DANDY... AND SO THAT MEANS WE CAN GO RIGHT AHEAD ON TO THE NEXT STAGE OF... OUR LITTLE PROJECT! HEH HEH HEH WHEEZE

HEY, SUPER!

SHUT UP, STREP

HUMM BZZZ BZZZ CLICK BUZZ

TO BE CONTINUED... LATER! HA HA HA

PETER KUPER'S

New York

"It is Peter Kuper's bent to find the personality lurking within the inanimate and pull it to the surface in all its ironic glory." —*Print Magazine*

"Armed with an unpredictable imagination and a wildly inventive pen, Peter Kuper's stalked the modern urban nightmare, harpooned it, and dragged it back alive in the pages of this book.

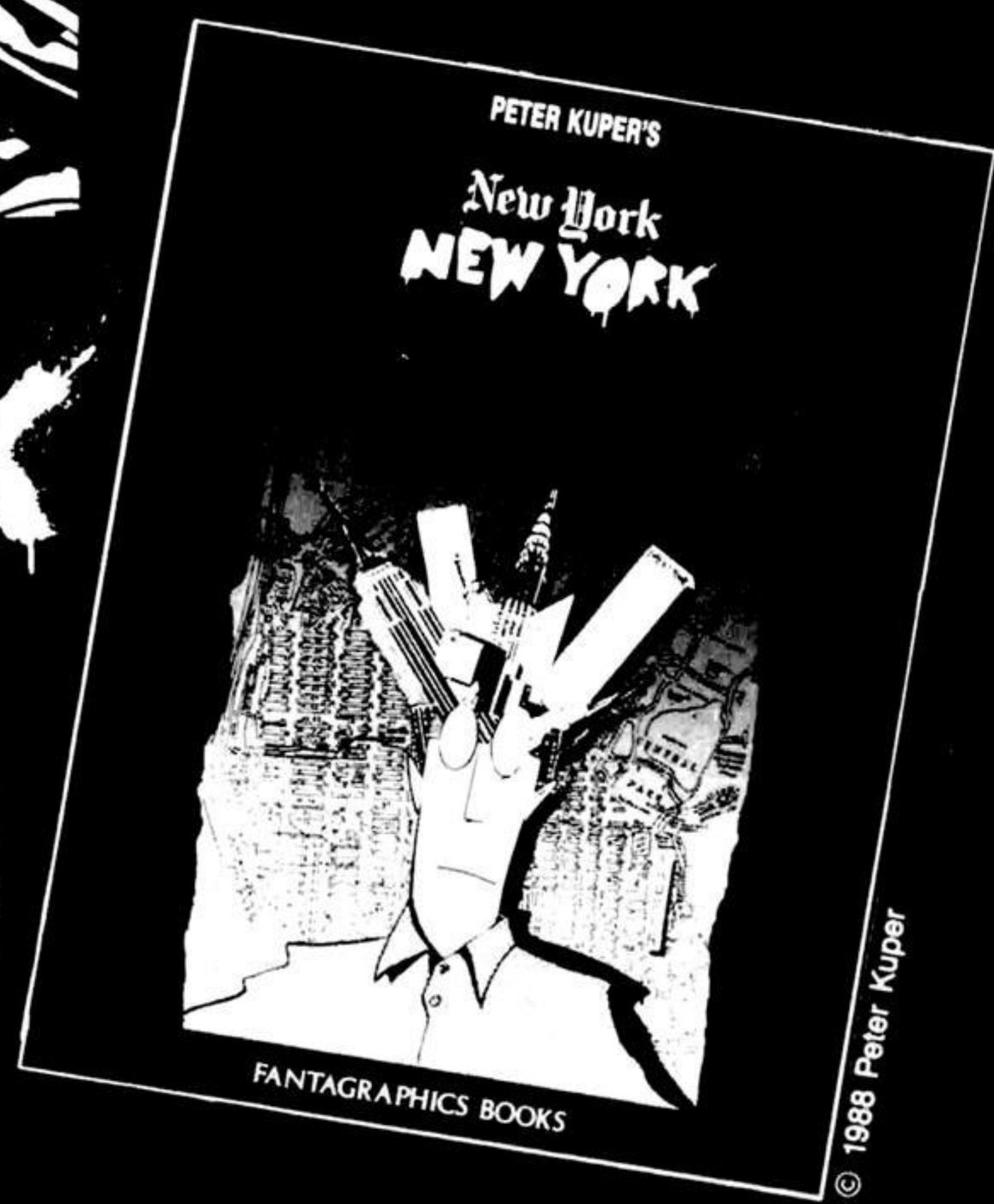
"This long-overdue collection of his work—sometimes shocking, sometimes appallingly funny—makes an ideal guidebook for anyone who's ever found himself wandering through the wilds of our scariest and most seductive city." —**T.E.D. Klein**
author, *The Ceremonies*

"When I first met Peter Kuper
I liked him.
He was good,
he was fast
and he lived next door.
A perfect set up for an art director
under a newspaper deadline.
Then I read *New York, New York*—
now I'm in love." —**Beth Williams**
art director, *New York Times*

"Peter Allen, an entertainer, once said that the hippest people in New York all came from somewhere else. Peter Kuper, as hip as his Cleveland confreres Robert Crumb and Harvey Pekar, confirms Allen's dictum—reading Kuper's *New York, New York* makes me remember why I'm glad I don't live there any more."
—**Howard Chaykin**

"Peter Kuper's work is what *they* usually mean when *they* refer to *Art* in the graphic story medium (i.e., comics). Doesn't matter. It's pretty damn good anyway!"
—**Walter Simonson**

NEW YORK



***Peter Kuper's New York, New York*. 84 pages, black-and-white and color. Available at fine comics specialty stores, or directly from the publisher for $9.95 + $2.00 postage and handling: Fantagraphics Books, 1800 Bridgegate Street, Suite 101, Westlake Village, CA 91361.**

Welcome to the Fantagraphics

ADVENTURES OF CAPT. JACK

Adventures of Captain Jack #3: Part 2 of "Sat. Night": Herman and Beezlebub visit the netherworld.

Adventures of Captain Jack #4: Maniacal astronauts and a batty back-up strip.

Adventures of Captain Jack #5: "Farmer Fred, I'm In Love With Your Daughter" Part 1: Arrival on Janet's planet. (This is the one that drove the distributors nuts around the country.)

Adventures of Captain Jack #6: Part 2: Herman and Janet decide to go away together.

Adventures of Captain Jack #7: Part 3: Beezlebub intrudes in Herman and Janet's relationship.

Adventures of Captain Jack #8: A daring escape, the Captain in drag, and more.

Adventures of Captain Jack #9: Pool hustling with Saturated Fats, and the conclusion of the storyline!

CRITTERS

Critters #4: *Gnuff* and *Birthright* continue, *Lionheart* premieres, and the first Ken Macklin cover painting!

Critters #5: *Birthright* continues, the first *Gnuff* novel concludes (with a cover), plus Stan Sakai's *Nilson Groundthumper*!

Critters #6: *Usagi Yojimbo* tale with cover, *Birthright* concludes, and the first *Firecracker Jack* by Mark Armstrong!

COPYRIGHT © RESPECTIVE ARTISTS: Freddy Milton, Bob Foster, Reed Waller and Kate Worley, Steve Lafler, Stan Sakai, Mike Kazaleh, Milton Knight, Sam Kieth, Steven A. Gallacci, Ty Templeton

Critters #8: *Jack Bunny* by cover artist Mark Armstrong, Templeton Kelly tribute, and *Lionheart* begins.

Critters #9: Hallowe'en issue with Gnuff behind a mask, Lionheart's nightmare, and Dog Boy.

Critters #10: *Usagi Yojimbo* cover/story, plus *Gnuff* and *Lionheart*.

Critters #12: *Birthright* returns, plus Waller/Worley, and Sam Kieth!

Critters #13: *Gnuff* cover, plus *Birthright* and Mark Armstrong.

Critters #14: *Usagi Yojimbo* story and cover, plus *Birthright* and *Gnuff*.

Critters #15: *Blue Beagle* and *Fission Chicken*, and *Birthright* races on!

Critters #16: *Gnuff* ends, another *Nilson Groundthumper* story by Sakai, and *Birthright*!

Critters #17: *Lionheart* returns, plus the conclusion of *Birthright*.

Critters #18: *Leggo Lamb* by Jim Engel premieres. Also, the conclusion to *Lionheart*, and *Blue Beagle*.

Critters #19: *Gnuff* returns, plus *Sam and Max*, *Freelance Police*, *Lizards*, and *Fission Chicken*.

Critters #20: *SpeakingStone* by Waller/Worley, *Gnuff* and *Fission Chicken*.

Critters #21: More *Gnuff*, *Lizards*, *Fission Chicken*—32 pages worth—plus a Sam Kieth cover!

Critters #22: *Watchmen* cover parody for *Blue Beagle* story, plus *Gnuff*, *Fission Chicken*, and *Ambrose*.

Critters #23: Christmas issue with *Gnuff*, *Lizards*, *Fission Chicken*, *Lionheart*, as well as strips by Marc Schirmeister, Sam Kieth, Tim Fuller, Mike Kazaleh, Bob Conway, Ty Templeton and Anthony Van Bruggen —plus a flexidisc with songs performed by Templeton & Alan Moore!

Critters #24: *Gnuff* continues, plus *Lizards* and *Fission Chicken*.

Critters #25: The return of *Lionheart*, plus *Gnuff* and *Angst*.

Critters #26: *Angst* cover by Van Horn, plus *Gnuff* and *Lionheart*.

Critters Special #1—Nilson Groundthumper and Hermy: Both the *Albedo* stories, plus a new 10-page strip!

DOG BOY

Dog Boy #1: Journey off into surreal experiences with "Werewolf Bikers" and more!

Dog Boy #2: Sir Isaac Newton guest stars as reality unravels.

Dog Boy #3: Dog Boy shows how to publish your own comic book.

Dog Boy #4: Dog Boy goes to Hell, plus Dog Girl invades the White House. Guest starring Reagan!

Dog Boy #5: An experiment misfires, and Dog Boy and Benb combine to form . . . Dogb! Oh no!

Dog Boy #6: "Drinkin' Man's Blues," with a striking painted cover.

Dog Boy #7: Jazzy issue exploring Dog Boy's multiple personalities!

Dog Boy #8: Alfred Knoot starts a new newspaper, Dog Girl goes graffiti-crazy, and more!

Dog Boy #9: Dancing with the cats, Dog Girl in jail, Benb goes crazy!

HUGO

Hugo #1: Milton (*Midnite*) Knight's feline "Meets the Baron."

Hugo #2: Hugo becomes a cartoonist and gets into deep trouble.

Hugo #3: Hugo is abducted by mermaids and fights sharks.

MYRON MOOSE

Myron Moose Funnies #1: Lots of goofy snot jokes, plus parodies of Dr. Seuss and Uncle Wriggly books.

Myron Moose Funnies #2: Parodies Batman, Mickey Mouse, Spirit, more.

Myron Moose Funnies #3: "Comic Book Fans," and more silly snot.

USAGI YOJIMBO

Usagi Yojimbo #1 *(2nd printing)*: Usagi journeys tells how he became a samurai. Plus: Dennis Fujitake!

Usagi Yojimbo #2: Usagi goes into training and has his first duel.

Usagi Yojimbo #3: The continuation of "Samurai," and a "Croakers" strip by Don Dougherty.

Usagi Yojimbo #4: The conclusion to Usagi's origin, and the first half of a penguin strip by Gary Kato.

Usagi Yojimbo #5: A one-issue tale of silk, treachery, and greed, and the end of the penguin tale by Kato.

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